
BEWARE!
FREE COMICS GROUP™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
20¢ CC
7 MAR 02185
THE MONSTERS ARE COMING!
BEWARE!
VENI VIDI SCANI
the incredible
BUMBLEBEE-MAN !

WEBCOMIC UNIVERSE.COM

EGBERT

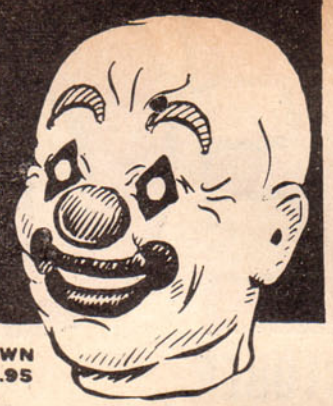
QUALITY COMIC GROUP
I.C.D. 10

OCTOBER
No.15

10¢



Enjoy Hilarious "Monkey-Shines" at your next Masquerade Party
WITH THESE AMAZING LIFE-LIKE
RUBBER MASKS

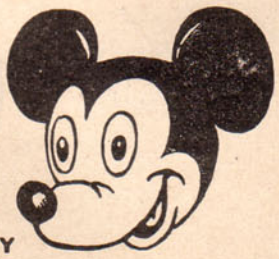


CLOWN
$2.95



COVER ENTIRE HEAD . . . LAST FOR YEARS . . . SO LIFELIKE PEOPLE GASP WITH AMAZEMENT AND DELIGHT...

Mold-Art Rubber Masks are molded from best grade natural flexible rubber. They cover the entire head. Yet you see thru the "eyes." The mouth moves with your lips . . . you breathe . . . smoke . . . talk . . . even eat thru it. Hand-painted for realism. Wonderful for every dress-up occasion—for parties or gifts. Fun for children and adults alike.



MICKEY MOUSE
$3.95
(©Walt Disney Prod.)



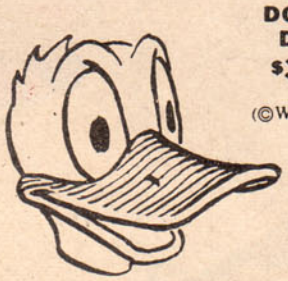
SATAN
$2.95





Minstrel
(Black Face)
$2.95

DONALD DUCK
$3.95
(©Walt Disney Prod.)



MASKS AVAILABLE

IDIOT MONKEY LADY KILLER
CLOWN OLD MAN OLD LADY 4 EYES
TRAMP SATAN BLACK FACE
MONSTER MAN SOPHISTICATED LADY
All masks above are $2.95 each
MICKEY MOUSE MINNIE MOUSE
DONALD DUCK *at $3.95 each*
Special Santa Claus at $4.95

IDIOT . . $2.95

Yes, here is Halfwit in all his goofiness. People howl with laughter when you put on this life-like mask.

MONKEY $2.95



SEND NO MONEY!

RUSH COUPON NOW

Just mail coupon. ORDER MASKS BY NAME as listed in this ad All masks priced $2.95 except Santa Claus ($4.95) and Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse and Donald Duck (at $3.95 each). When package arrives pay postman the price plus C.O.D. postage (we pay postage if cash is sent with order). Sanitary laws prohibit return of worn masks. All Masks guaranteed perfect

RUBBER-FOR-MOLDS, INC.
6044 Avondale Avenue, Dept. 53MX Chicago 31, Illinois

Rubber-For-Molds, Inc., 6044 Avondale Ave., Dept. 53MX Chicago 31, Ill.

Send me the Masks checked Below

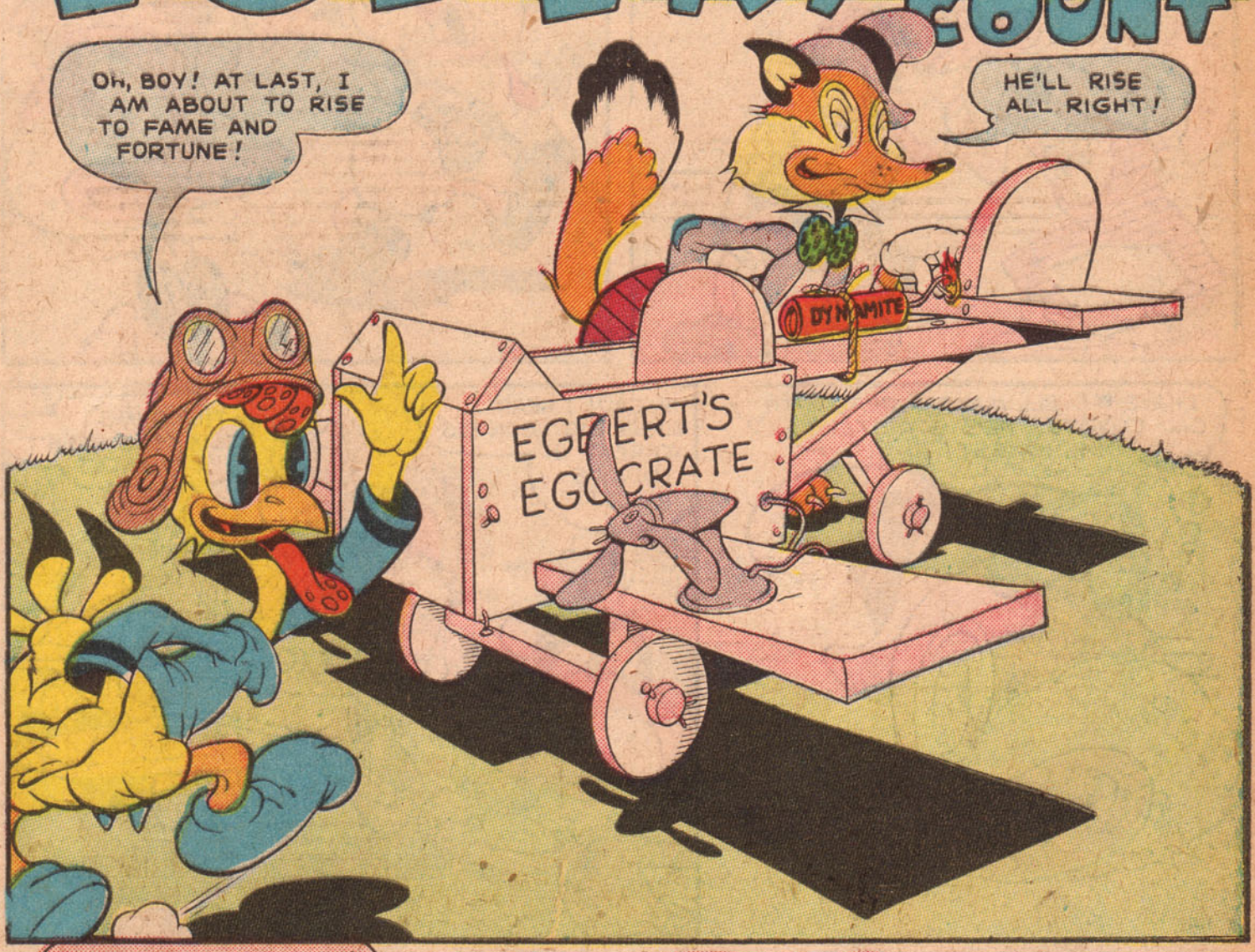
☐ Idiot ☐ Monkey ☐ Lady Killer
☐ Clown ☐ Old Man ☐ Old Lady
☐ 4 Eyes ☐ Tramp ☐ Satan
☐ Black Face ☐ Monster Man
☐ Sophisticated Lady
☐ Mickey Mouse
☐ Minnie Mouse
☐ Donald Duck
☐ Santa Claus.

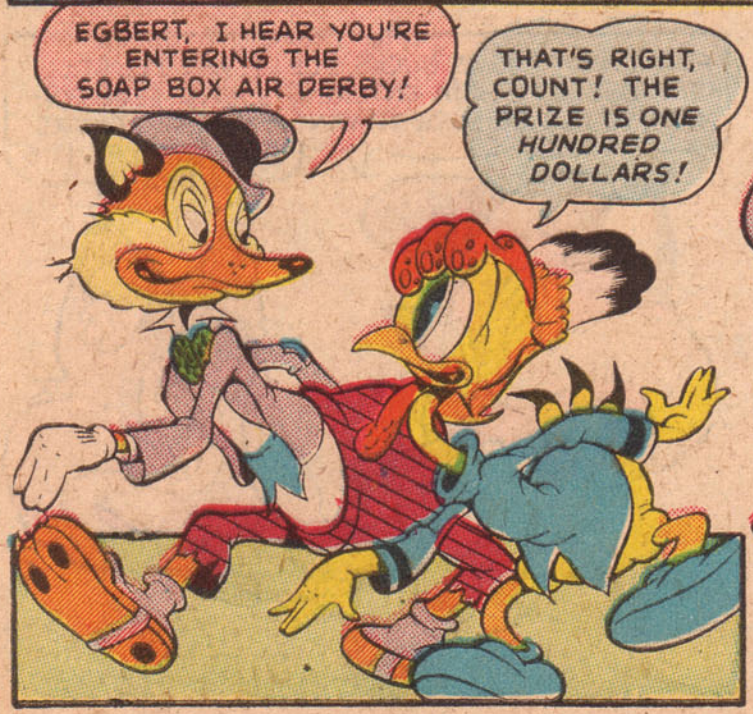
( ) Ship C.O.D. I will pay postman the price plus C.O.D. postage
( ) Ship postpaid. Payment in full enclosed herewith

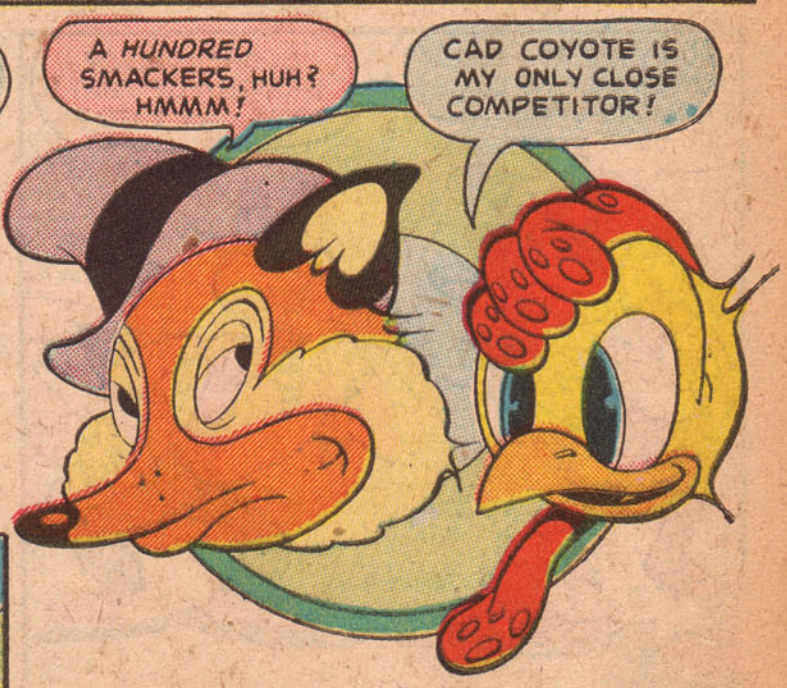
NAME _____
(Print Plainly)
STREET _____
CITY _____ Zone ___ State ___

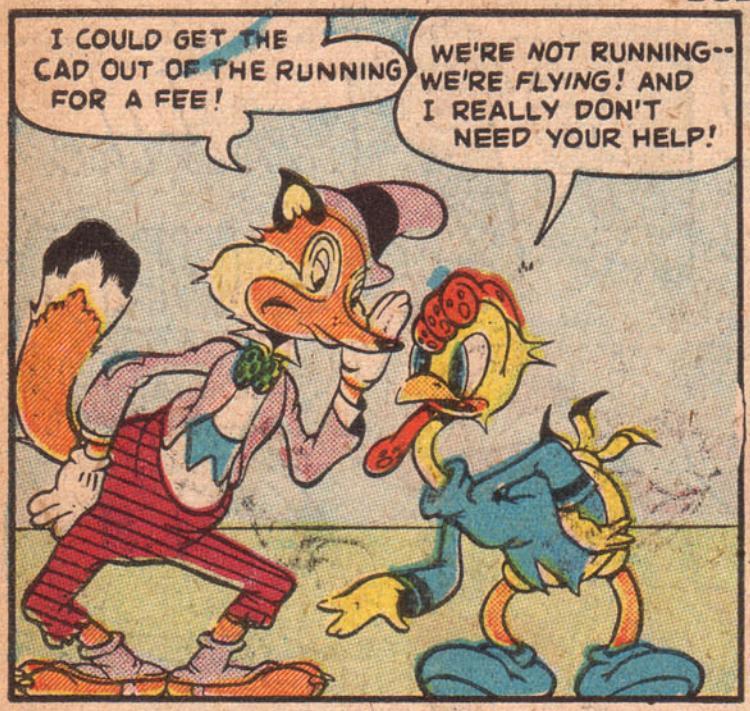
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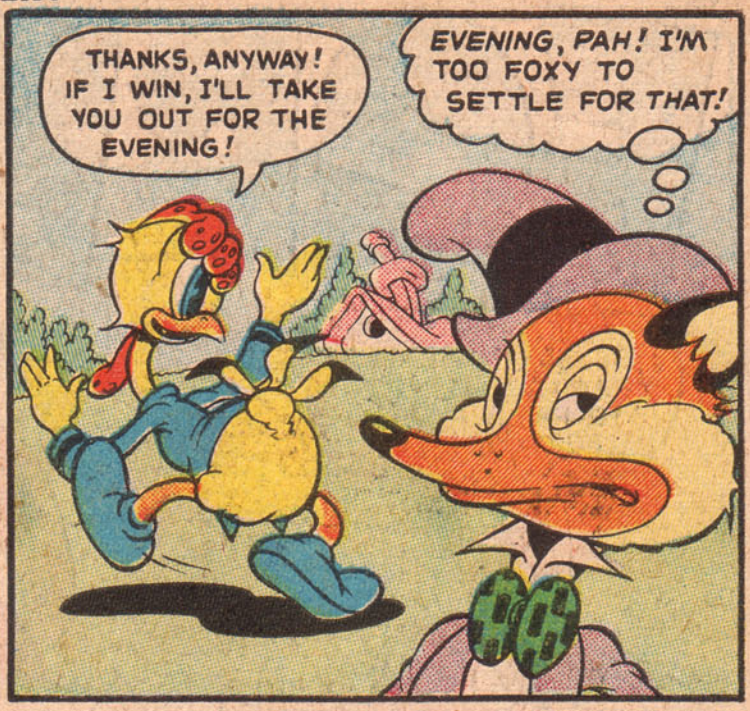
EGBERT and the COUNT



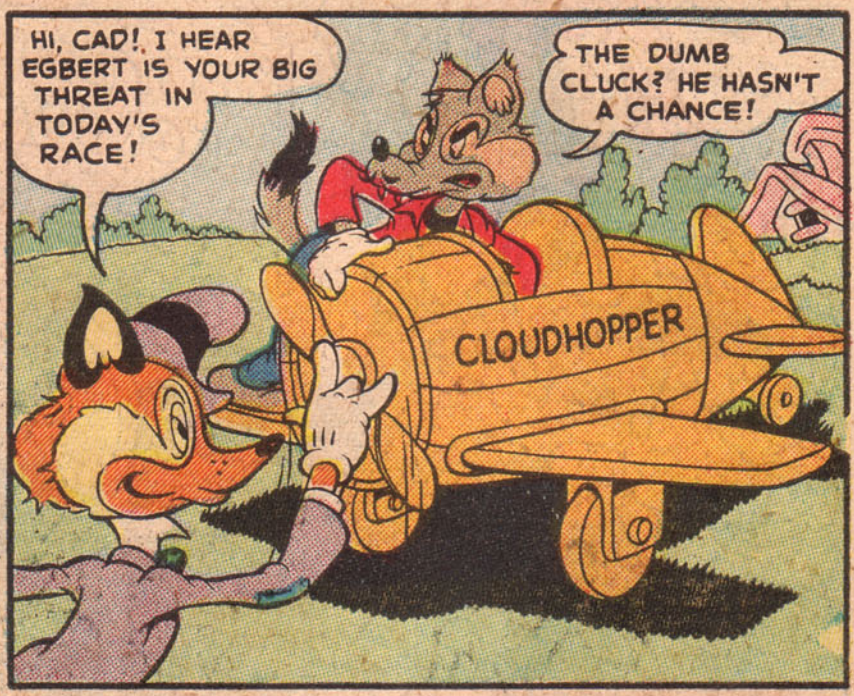


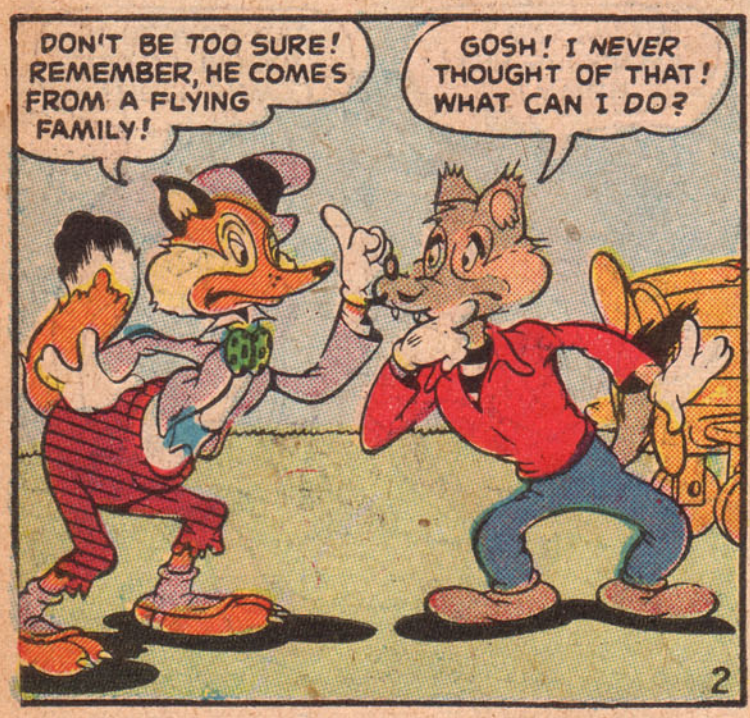


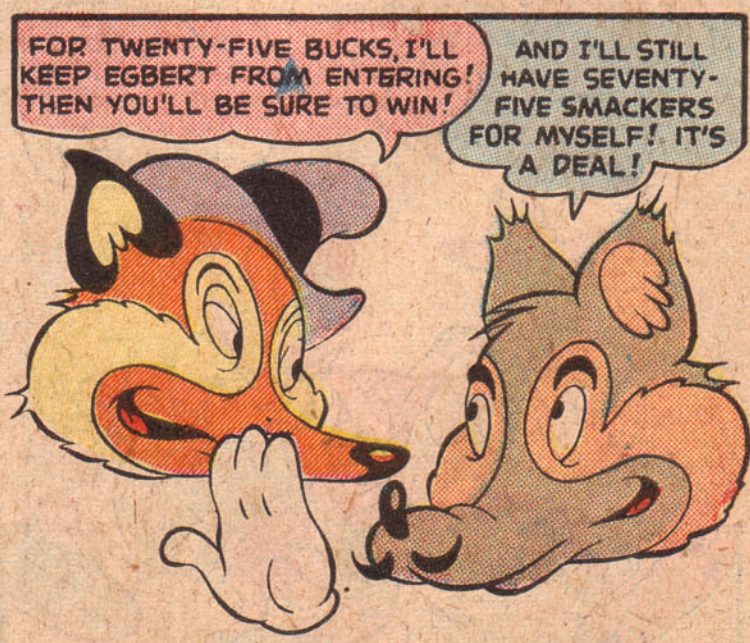

I COULD GET THE CAD OUT OF THE RUNNING FOR A FEE!
WE'RE NOT RUNNING--WE'RE FLYING! AND I REALLY DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!

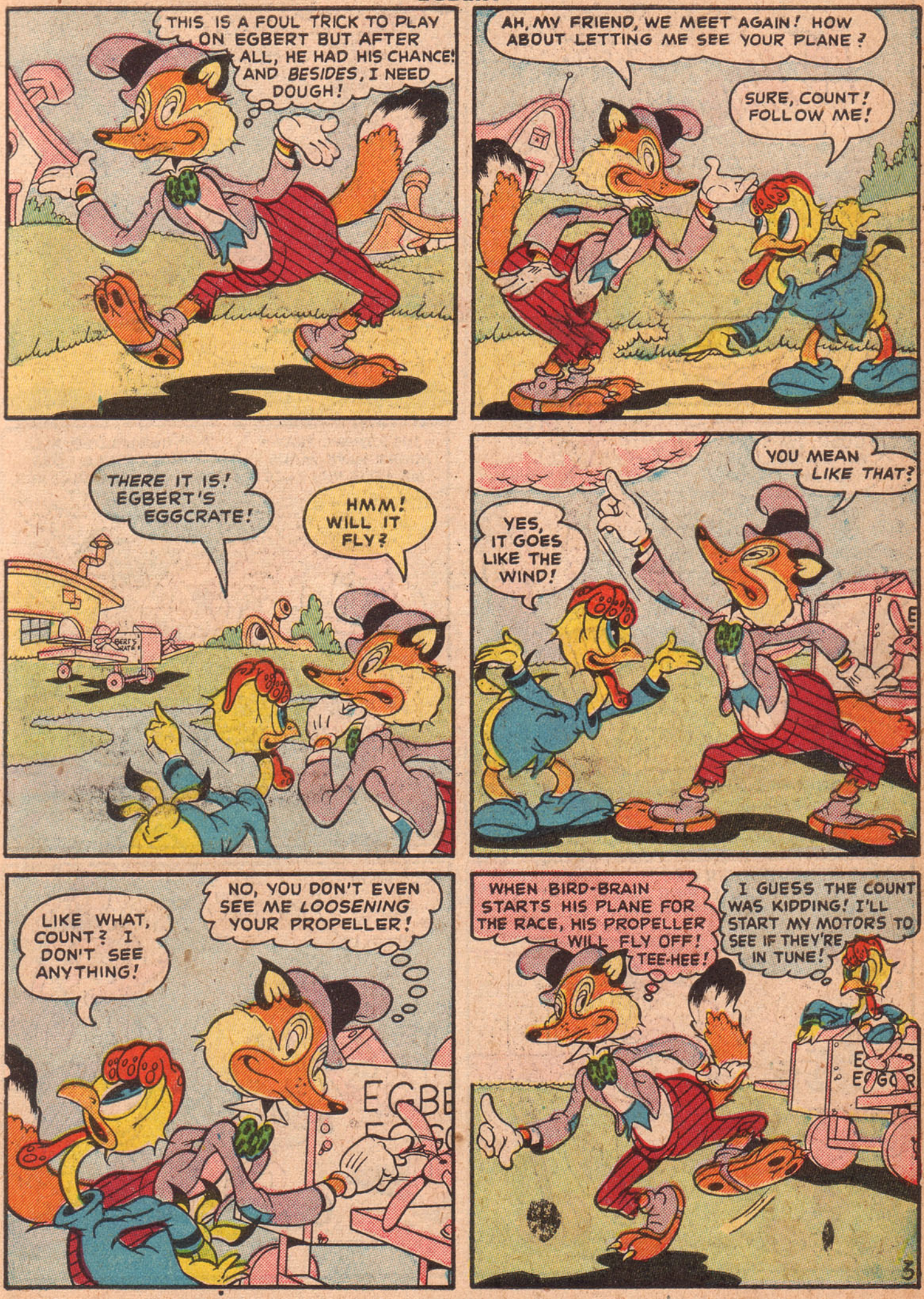

THANKS, ANYWAY! IF I WIN, I'LL TAKE YOU OUT FOR THE EVENING!
EVENING, PAH! I'M TOO FOXY TO SETTLE FOR THAT!

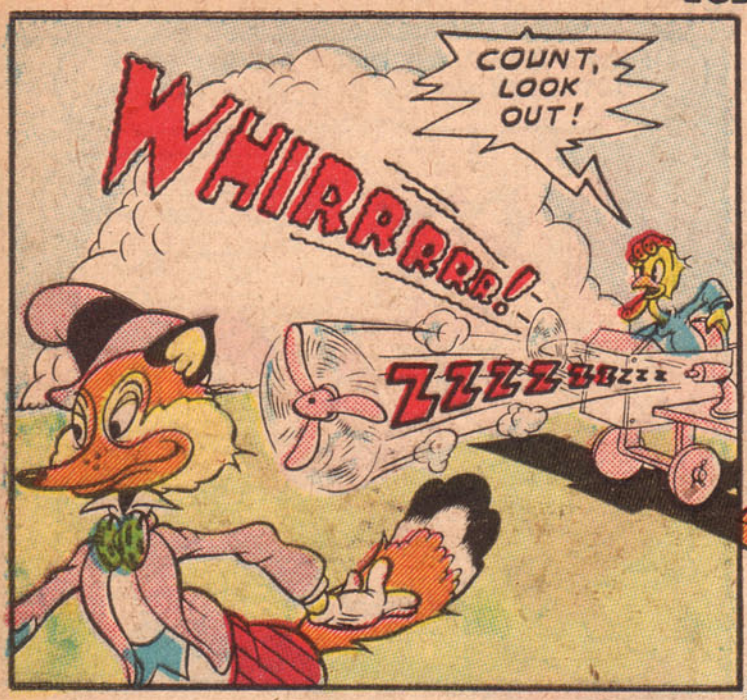

I HAVE IT! I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH CAD COYOTE! HE'S STRICTLY DISHONEST!

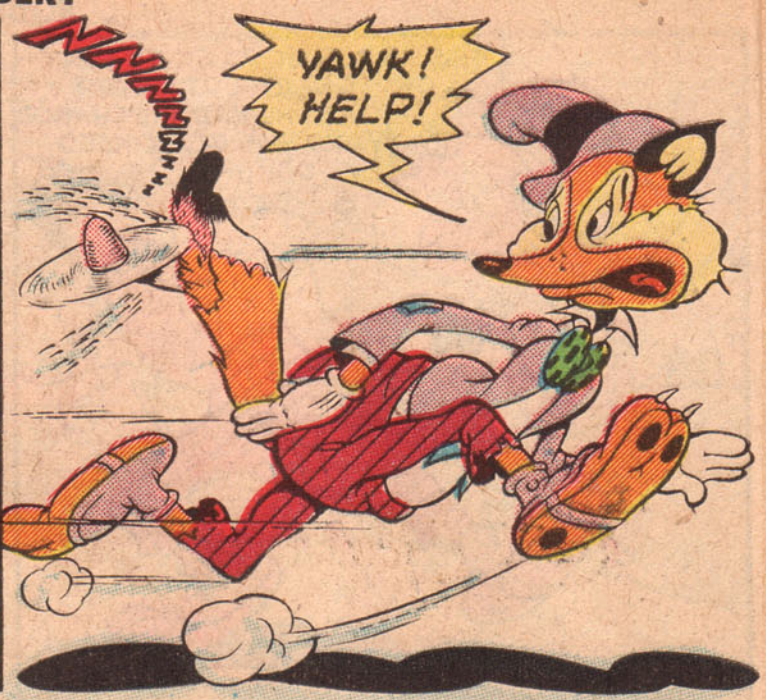

HI, CAD! I HEAR EGBERT IS YOUR BIG THREAT IN TODAY'S RACE!
THE DUMB CLUCK? HE HASN'T A CHANCE!
CLOUDHOPPER

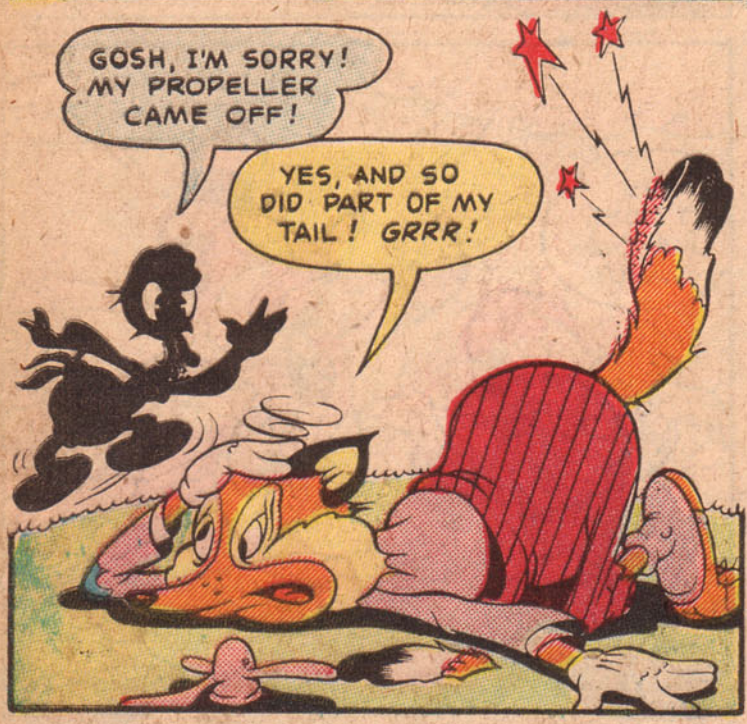

DON'T BE TOO SURE! REMEMBER, HE COMES FROM A FLYING FAMILY!
GOSH! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! WHAT CAN I DO?

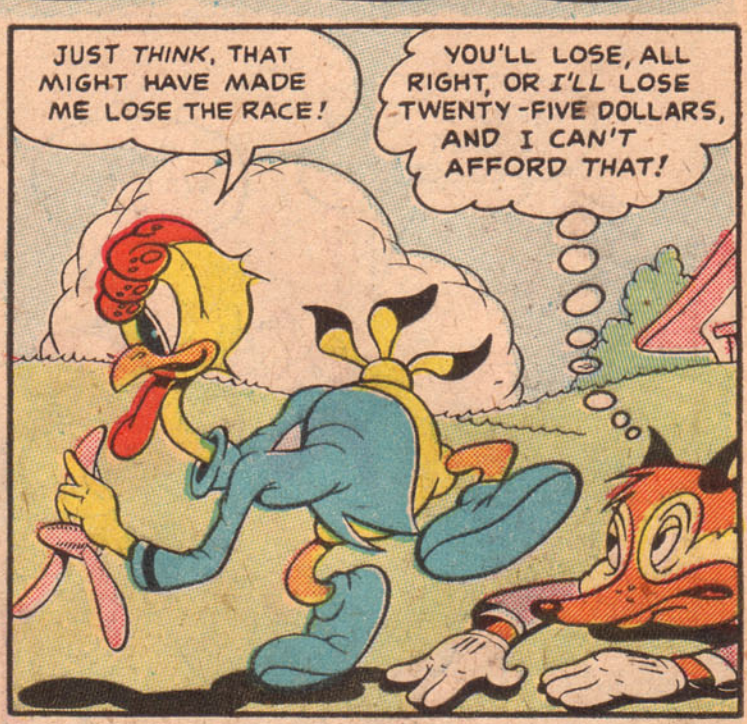

FOR TWENTY-FIVE BUCKS, I'LL KEEP EGBERT FROM ENTERING! THEN YOU'LL BE SURE TO WIN!
AND I'LL STILL HAVE SEVENTY-FIVE SMACKERS FOR MYSELF! IT'S A DEAL!

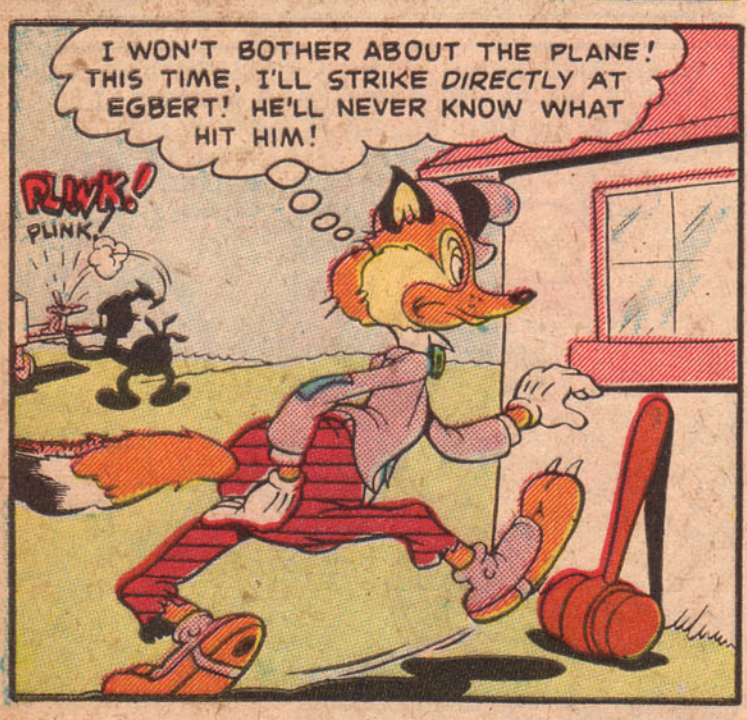

THIS IS A FOUL TRICK TO PLAY ON EGBERT BUT AFTER ALL, HE HAD HIS CHANCE! AND *BESIDES*, I NEED DOUGH!
AH, MY FRIEND, WE MEET AGAIN! HOW ABOUT LETTING ME SEE YOUR PLANE?
SURE, COUNT! FOLLOW ME!
THERE IT IS! EGBERT'S EGGCRATE!
HMM! WILL IT FLY?
YOU MEAN LIKE THAT?
YES, IT GOES LIKE THE WIND!
LIKE WHAT, COUNT? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!
NO, YOU DON'T EVEN SEE ME *LOOSENING* YOUR PROPELLER!
WHEN BIRD-BRAIN STARTS HIS PLANE FOR THE RACE, HIS PROPELLER WILL FLY OFF! TEE-HEE!
I GUESS THE COUNT WAS KIDDING! I'LL START MY MOTORS TO SEE IF THEY'RE IN TUNE!
3

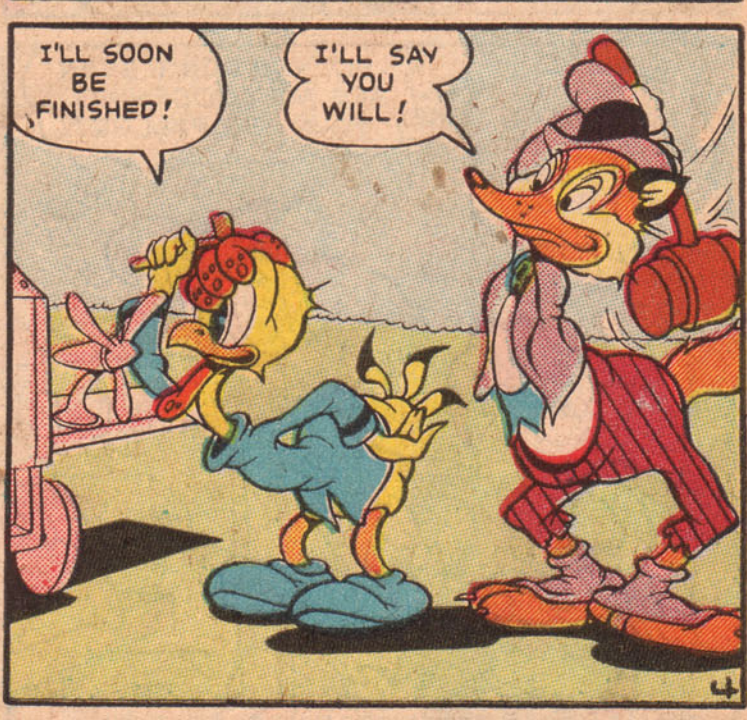

COUNT, LOOK OUT!
WHIRRRR!
ZZZZ


YAWK! HELP!


GOSH, I'M SORRY! MY PROPELLER CAME OFF!
YES, AND SO DID PART OF MY TAIL! GRRR!

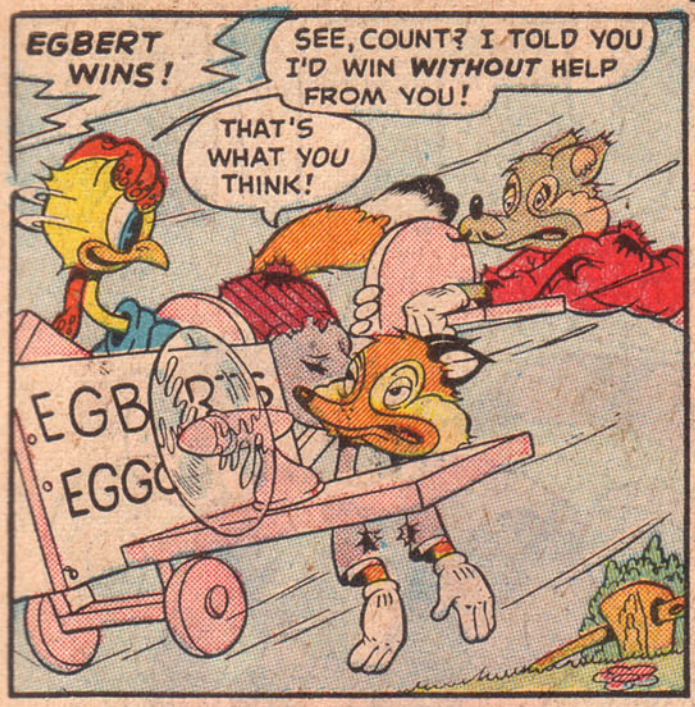

JUST THINK, THAT MIGHT HAVE MADE ME LOSE THE RACE!
YOU'LL LOSE, ALL RIGHT, OR I'LL LOSE TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS, AND I CAN'T AFFORD THAT!

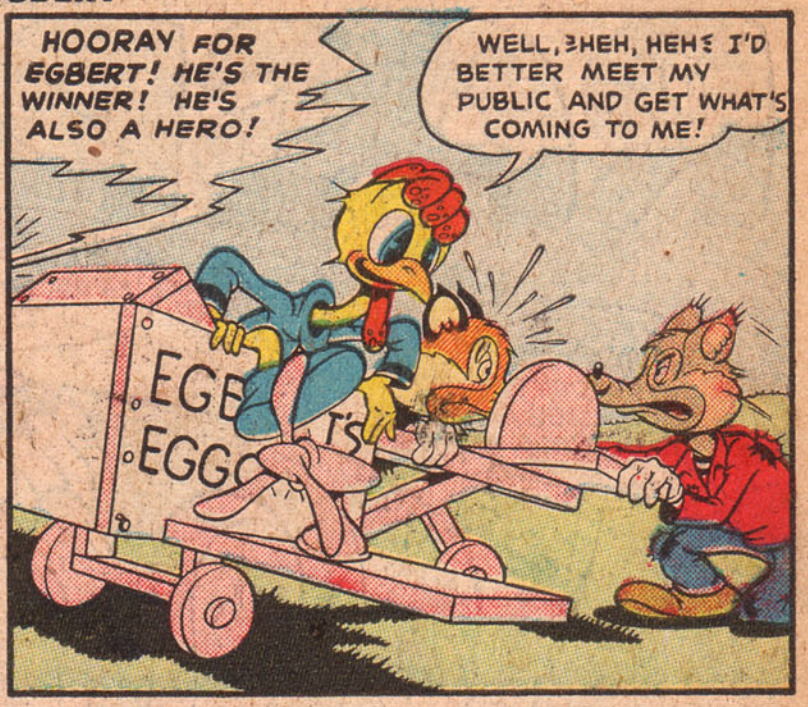

I WON'T BOTHER ABOUT THE PLANE! THIS TIME, I'LL STRIKE DIRECTLY AT EGBERT! HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!
PLINK!

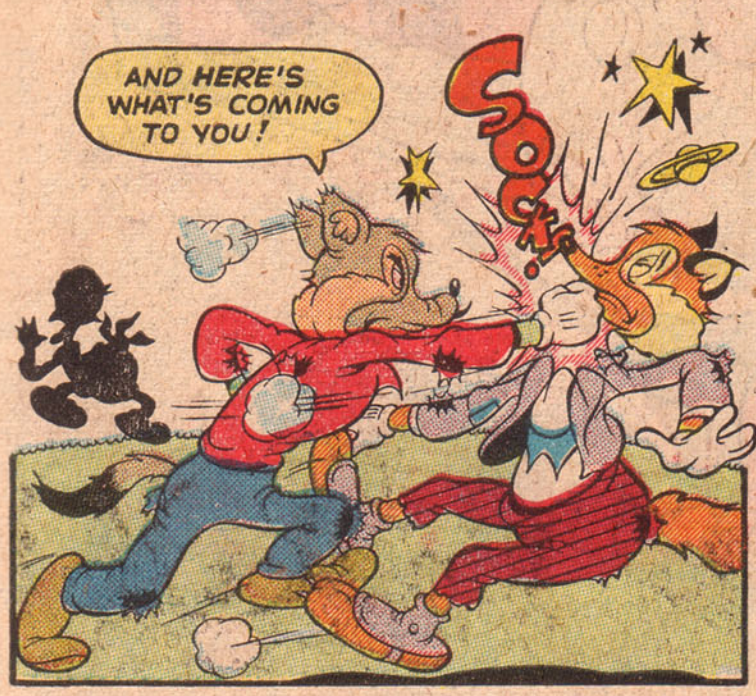

I'LL SOON BE FINISHED!
I'LL SAY YOU WILL!

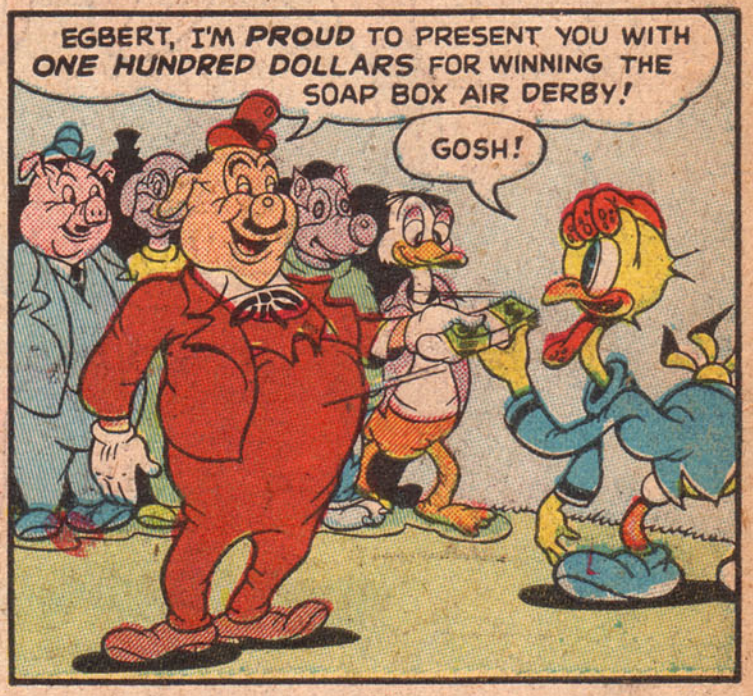

OOPS! I DROPPED SOMETHING!
YEOWW!
WHACK!
YIEEEE! OW.WW!
GEE, DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?
OHHH, MY FOOT! GROAN!
COUNT, WHY IS EGBERT STILL AROUND? THE RACE IS ABOUT TO START!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GET RID OF HIM!
I AM! AND THIS TIME IT WILL BE FOREVER!
DYNAMITE
I'LL DYNAMITE THAT FOOL FOWL AND HIS EGGCRATE! THEY'LL FLY TO PIECES!
THE SOAP BOX AIR DERBY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN! READY FOR THE TAKE-OFF!
OH BOY! I'LL SOON BE SAILING THROUGH THE AIR!
EGBERT'S CRATE

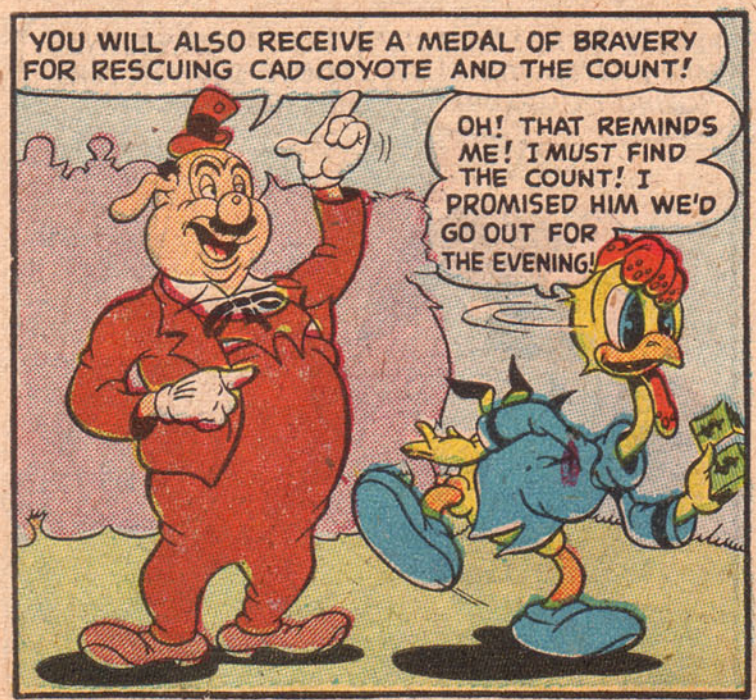

I SUPPOSE I'LL MISS MY FRIEND FUZZ-FACE ≥SNIFF≤ BUT MONEY'S MORE IMPORTANT!
AWK!
I'M OFF!
S-S-S-S!
WHIRRR!
EGBERT'S CRATE
UGH!
SSSSS
OOF!
PLOP!
BARROOM!
GOSH, THAT'S THE COUNT AND CAD COYOTE! I'D BETTER GIVE THEM A LIFT!
EGBERT'S CRATE
HOP ON, BOYS! DON'T SAY I EVER LET A FRIEND DOWN! HEE, HEE!
PLUNK!
PLOP!
EGBERT'S EGGS

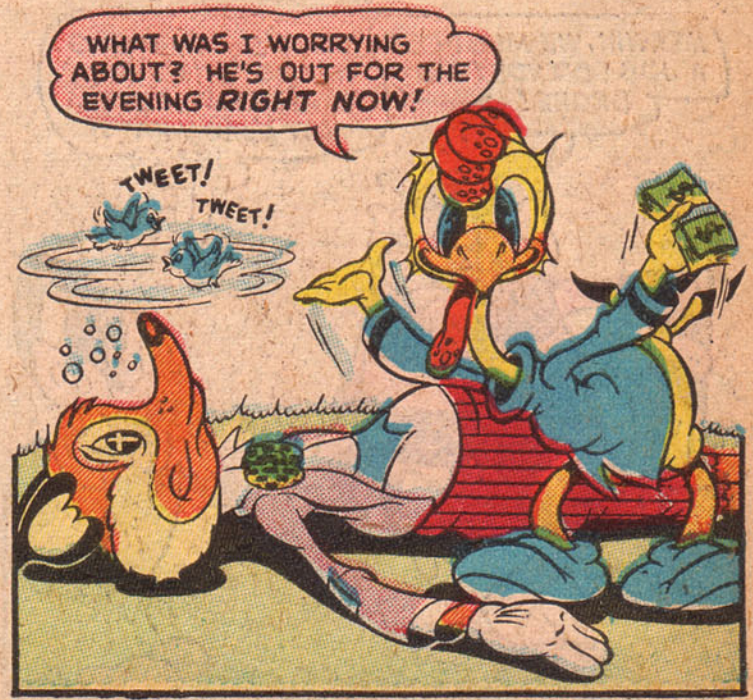

EGBERT WINS!
SEE, COUNT? I TOLD YOU I'D WIN WITHOUT HELP FROM YOU!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!


HOORAY FOR EGBERT! HE'S THE WINNER! HE'S ALSO A HERO!
WELL, HEH, HEH! I'D BETTER MEET MY PUBLIC AND GET WHAT'S COMING TO ME!


AND HERE'S WHAT'S COMING TO YOU!
SOCK!


EGBERT, I'M PROUD TO PRESENT YOU WITH ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR WINNING THE SOAP BOX AIR DERBY!
GOSH!

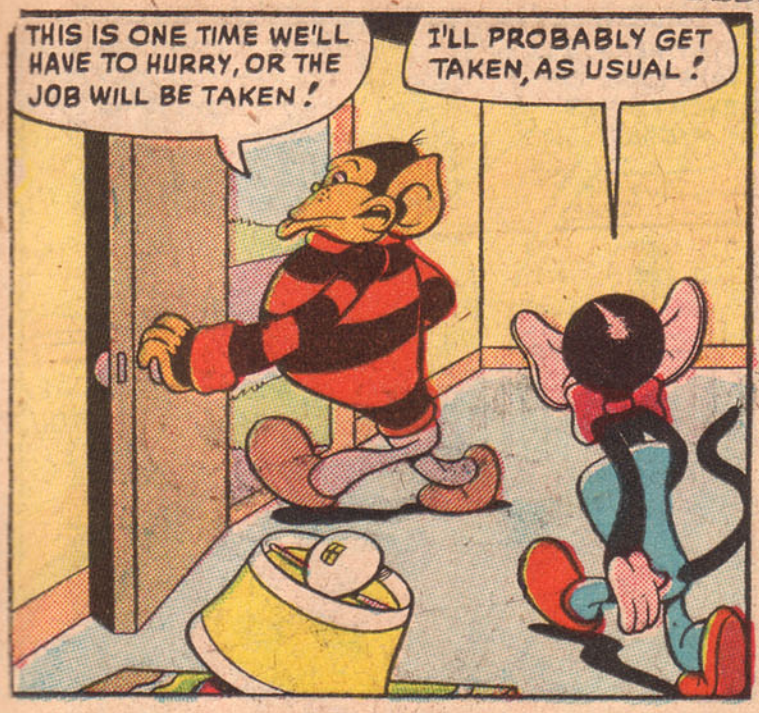

YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE A MEDAL OF BRAVERY FOR RESCUING CAD COYOTE AND THE COUNT!
OH! THAT REMINDS ME! I MUST FIND THE COUNT! I PROMISED HIM WE'D GO OUT FOR THE EVENING!

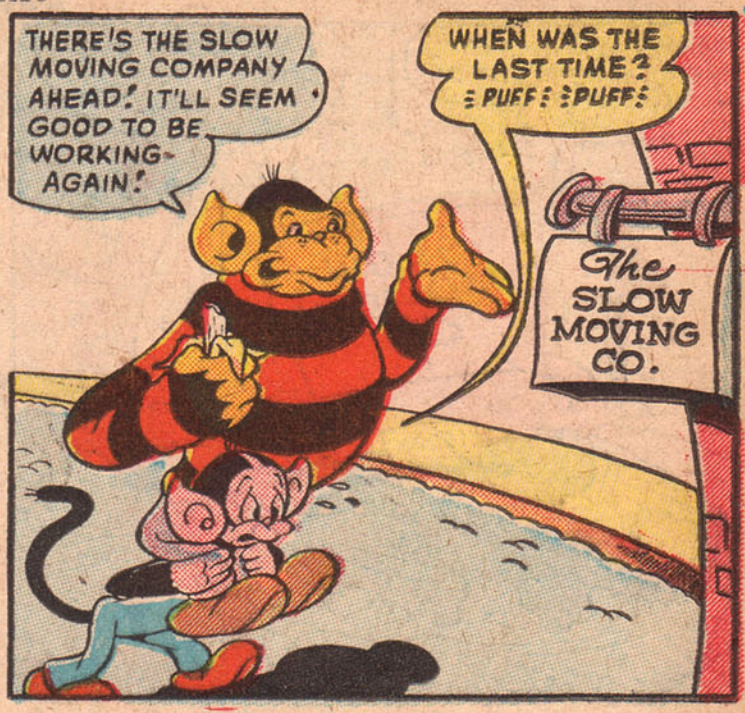

WHAT WAS I WORRYING ABOUT? HE'S OUT FOR THE EVENING RIGHT NOW!
TWEET!
TWEET!

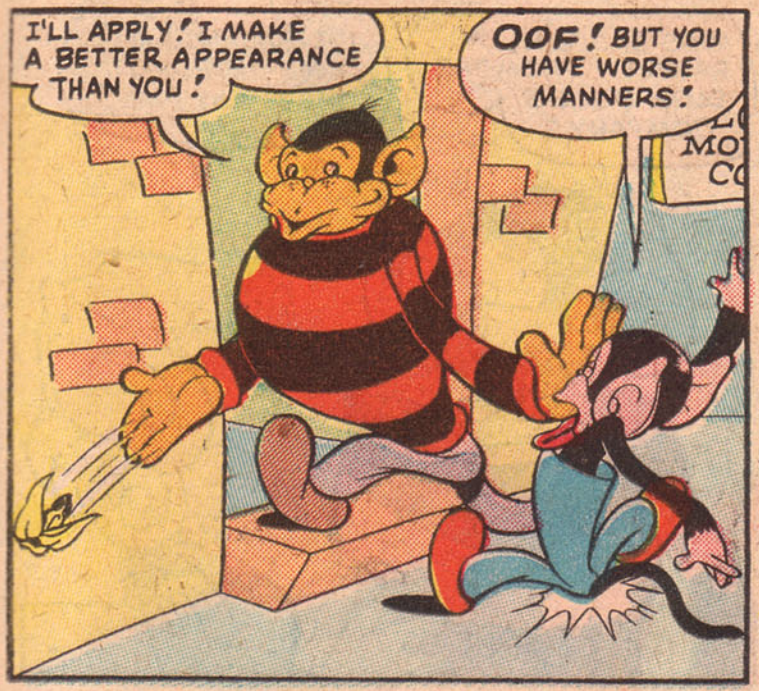
EGBERT

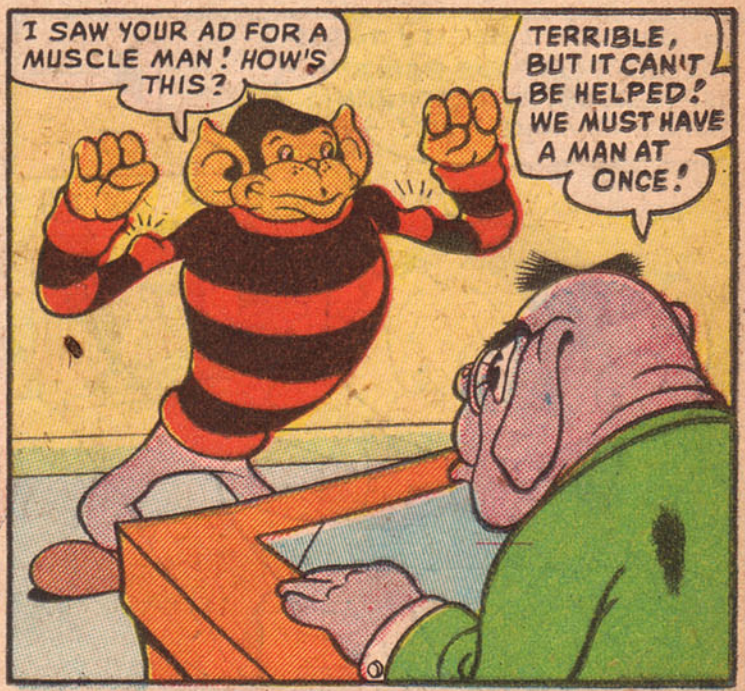
RASPUTIN



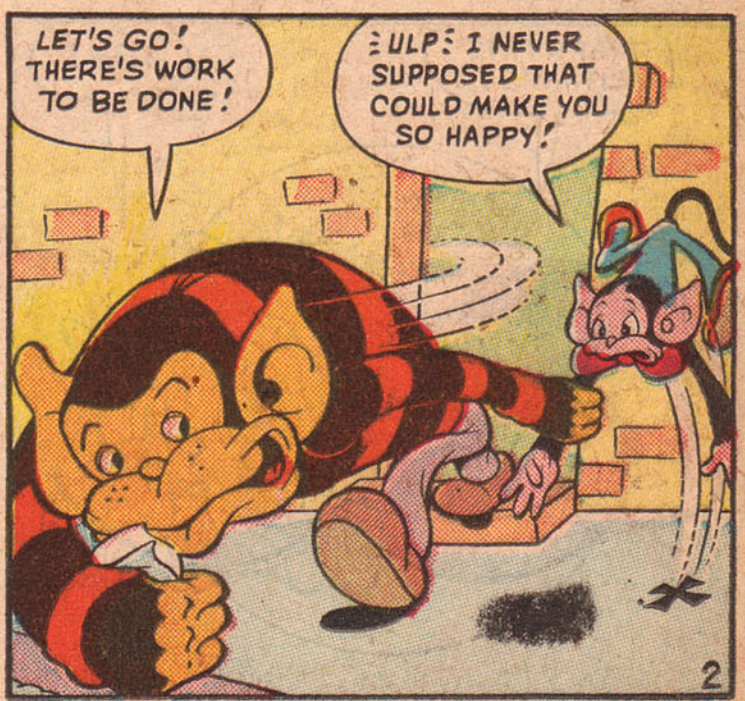

THIS IS ONE TIME WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY, OR THE JOB WILL BE TAKEN!
I'LL PROBABLY GET TAKEN, AS USUAL!

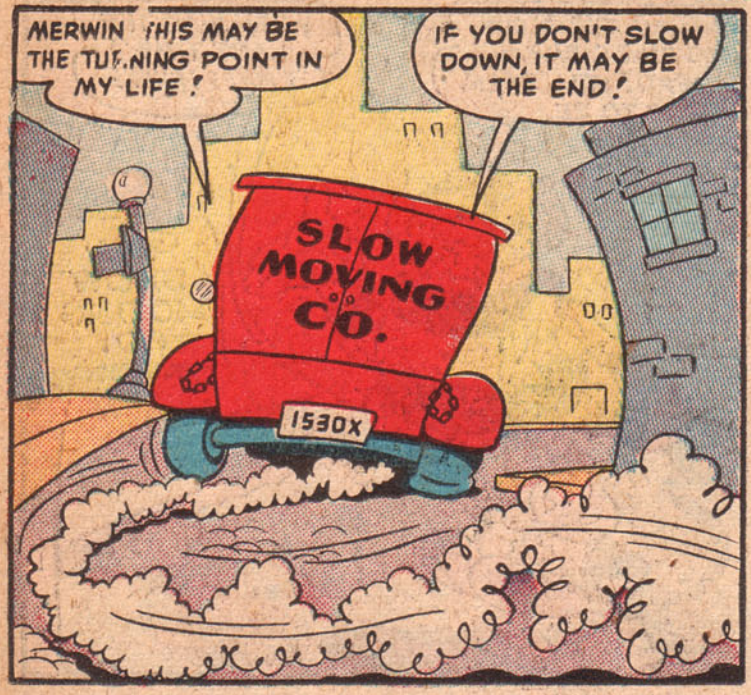

THERE'S THE SLOW MOVING COMPANY AHEAD! IT'LL SEEM GOOD TO BE WORKING AGAIN!
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME? :PUFF: :PUFF:
The SLOW MOVING CO.

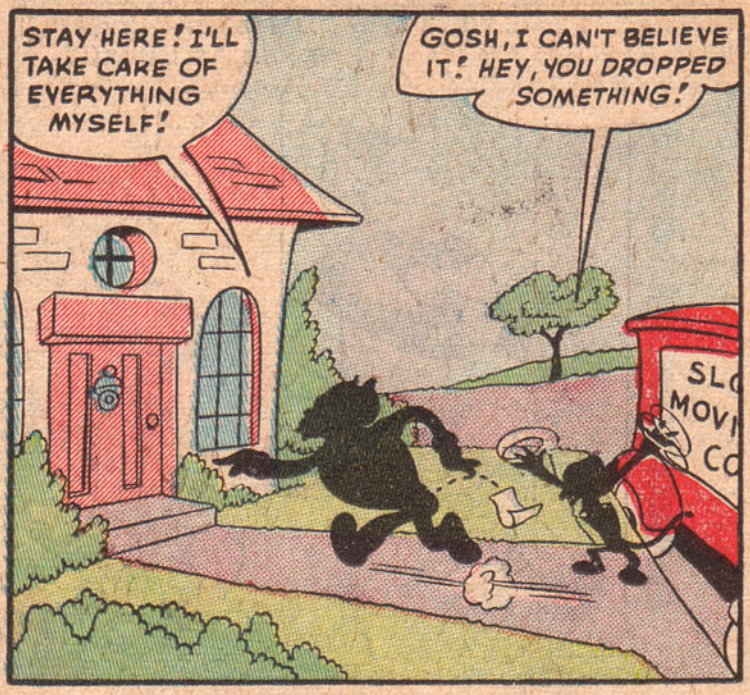

I'LL APPLY! I MAKE A BETTER APPEARANCE THAN YOU!
OOF! BUT YOU HAVE WORSE MANNERS!

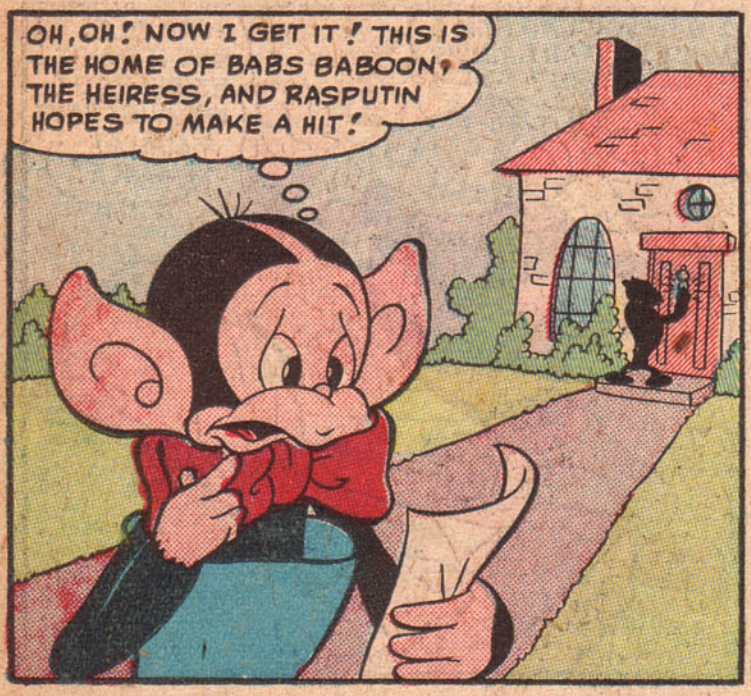

I SAW YOUR AD FOR A MUSCLE MAN! HOW'S THIS?
TERRIBLE, BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED! WE MUST HAVE A MAN AT ONCE!


GO TO THIS ADDRESS FOR A MOVING JOB! THE TRUCK'S OUT BACK!
BABS BABOON, 2 SWANK PLACE! THE MILLIONAIRE HEIRESS? OH, BOY!

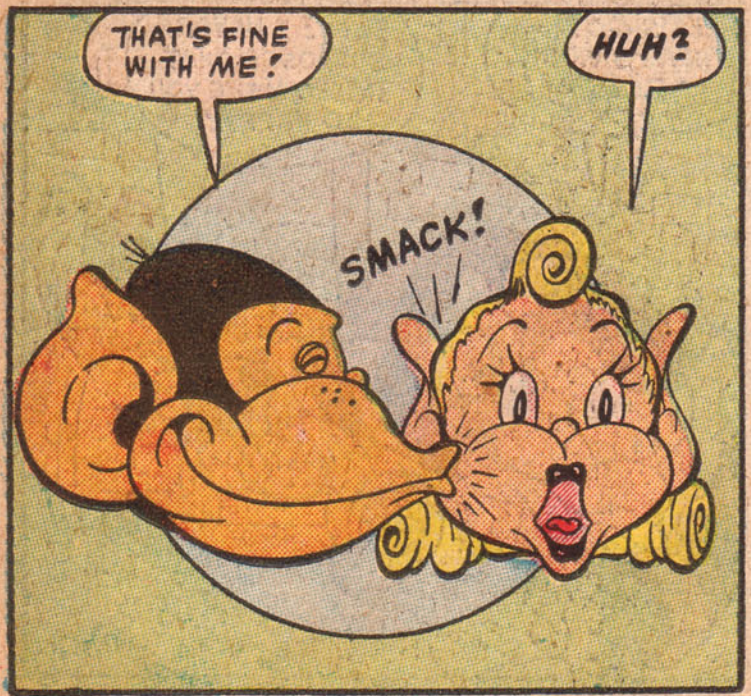

LET'S GO! THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE!
:ULP: I NEVER SUPPOSED THAT COULD MAKE YOU SO HAPPY!

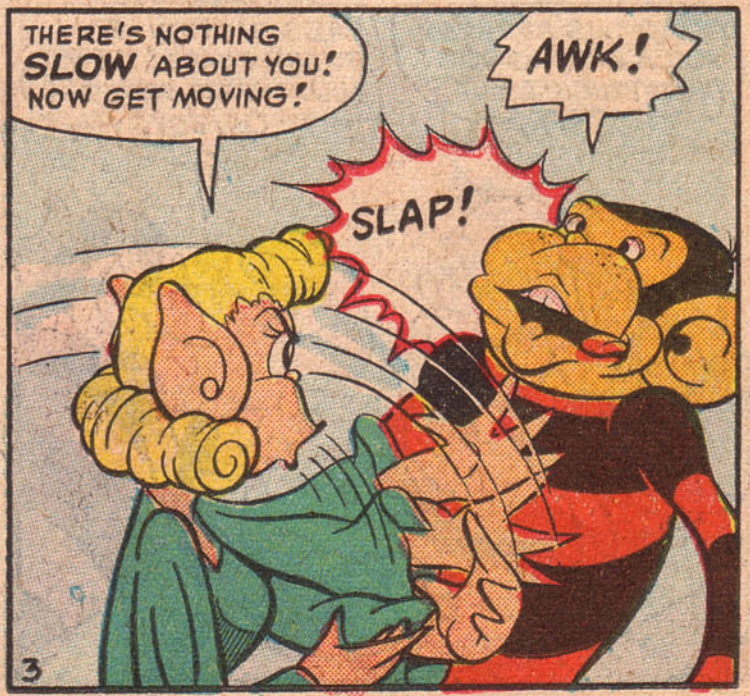

MERWIN THIS MAY BE THE TUR.NING POINT IN MY LIFE!
IF YOU DON'T SLOW DOWN, IT MAY BE THE END!
SLOW MOVING CO.
1530X

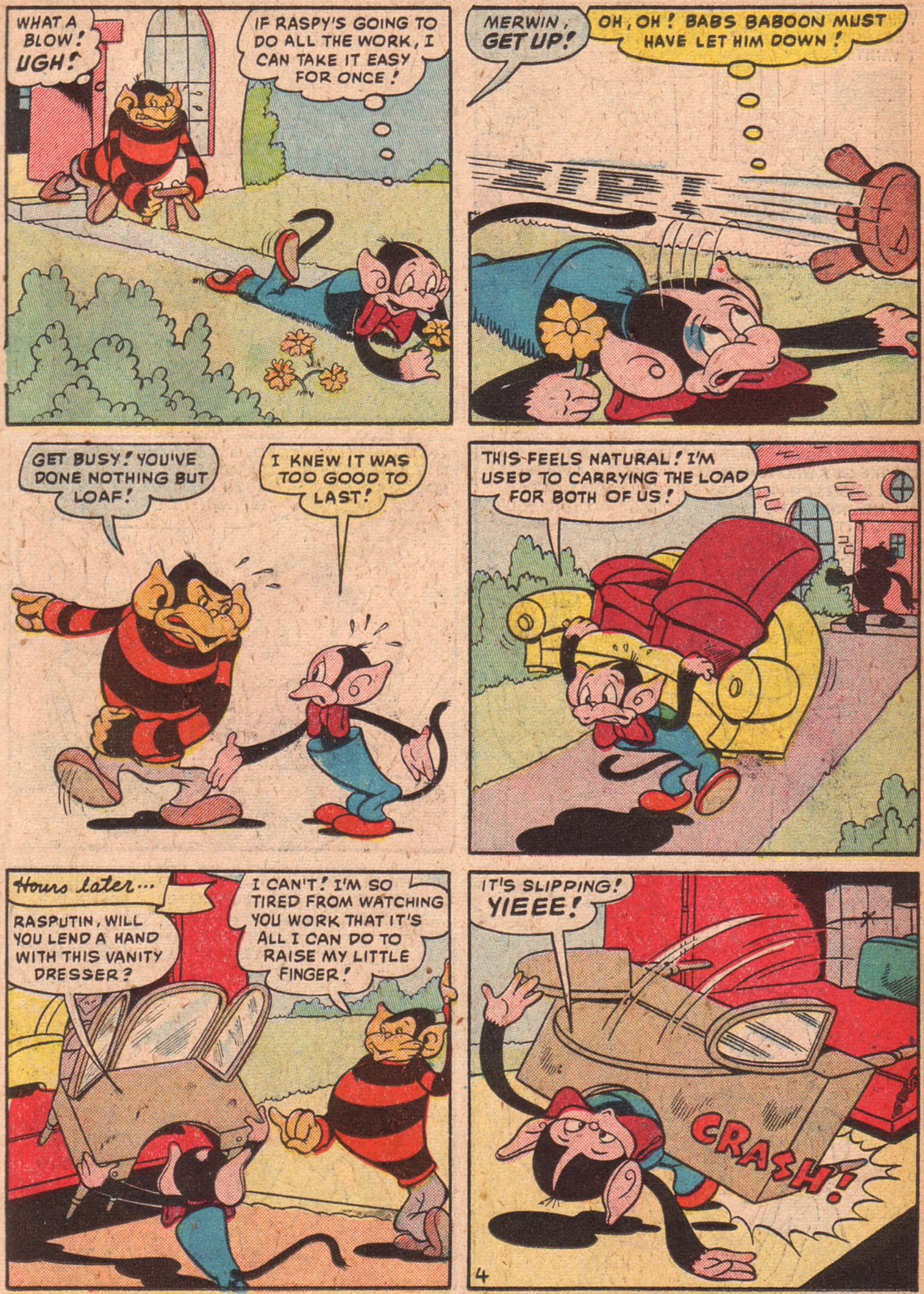

STAY HERE! I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING MYSELF!
GOSH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HEY, YOU DROPPED SOMETHING!

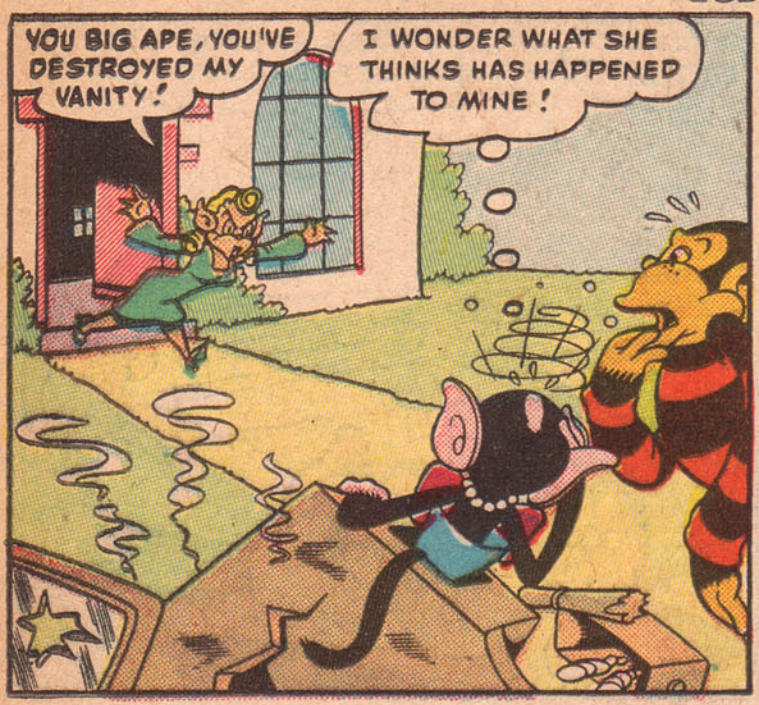

OH, OH! NOW I GET IT! THIS IS THE HOME OF BABS BABOON, THE HEIRESS, AND RASPUTIN HOPES TO MAKE A HIT!

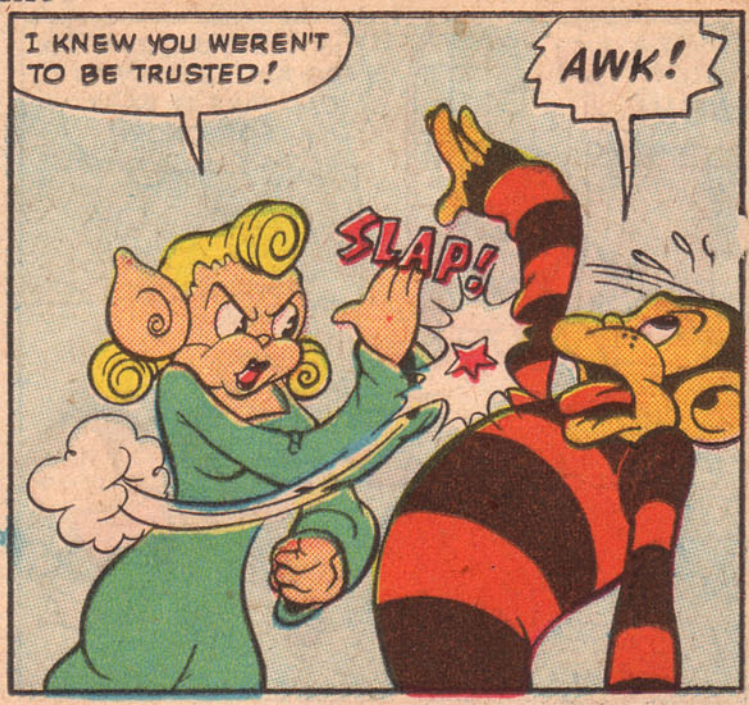

MISS BABOON, I'M RASPUTIN FROM THE SLOW MOVING COMPANY!
I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME! LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME!

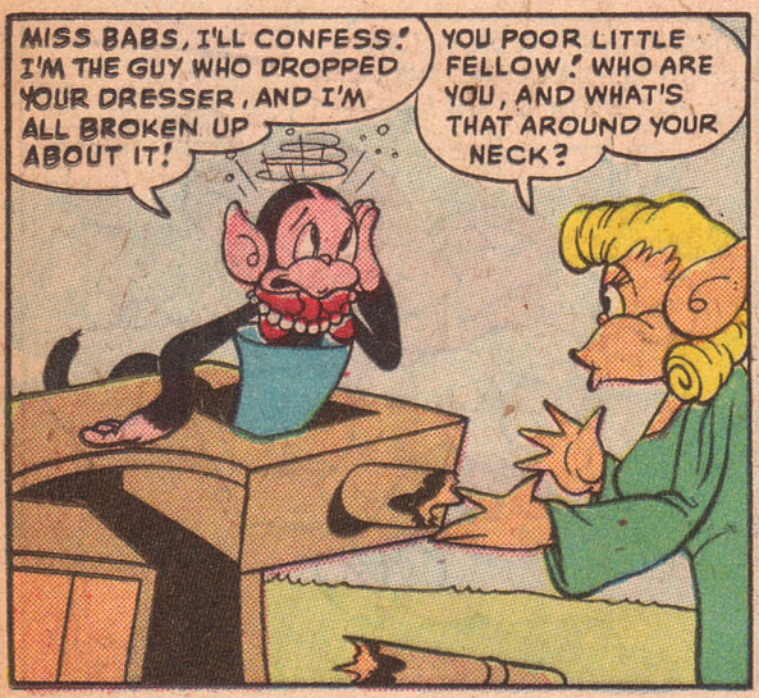

THAT'S FINE WITH ME!
HUH?
SMACK!

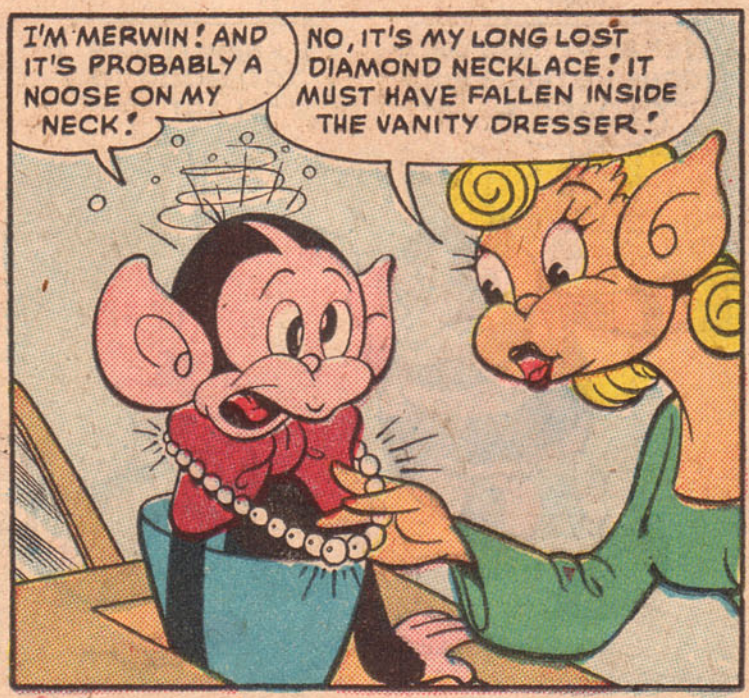

THERE'S NOTHING SLOW ABOUT YOU! NOW GET MOVING!
AWK!
SLAP!

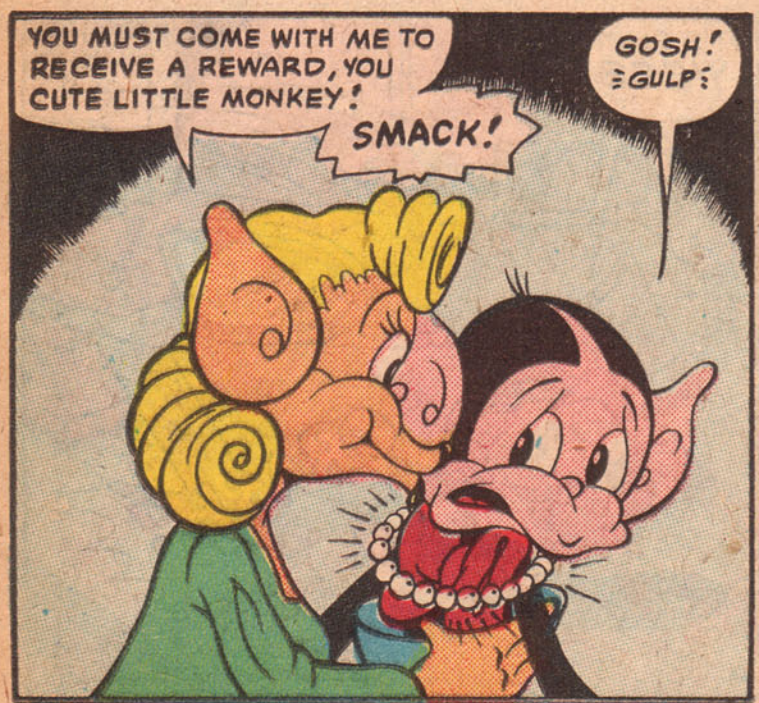

WHAT A BLOW! UGH!
IF RASPY'S GOING TO DO ALL THE WORK, I CAN TAKE IT EASY FOR ONCE!
MERWIN, GET UP!
OH, OH! BABS BABOON MUST HAVE LET HIM DOWN!
GET BUSY! YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT LOAF!
I KNEW IT WAS TOO GOOD TO LAST!
THIS FEELS NATURAL! I'M USED TO CARRYING THE LOAD FOR BOTH OF US!
Hours later...
RASPUTIN, WILL YOU LEND A HAND WITH THIS VANITY DRESSER?
I CAN'T! I'M SO TIRED FROM WATCHING YOU WORK THAT IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO RAISE MY LITTLE FINGER!
IT'S SLIPPING! YIEEE!
CRASH!

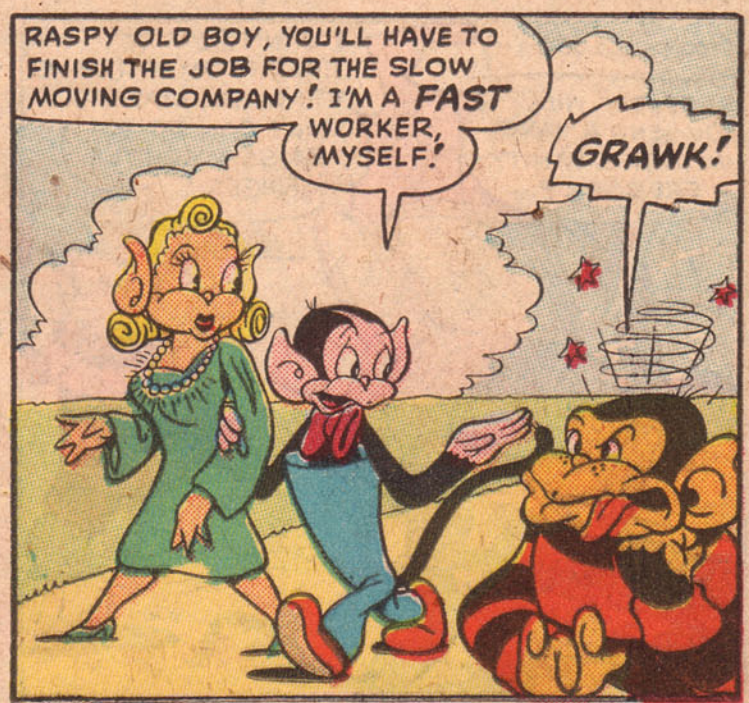

YOU BIG APE, YOU'VE DESTROYED MY VANITY!
I WONDER WHAT SHE THINKS HAS HAPPENED TO MINE!


I KNEW YOU WEREN'T TO BE TRUSTED!
AWK!
SLAP!

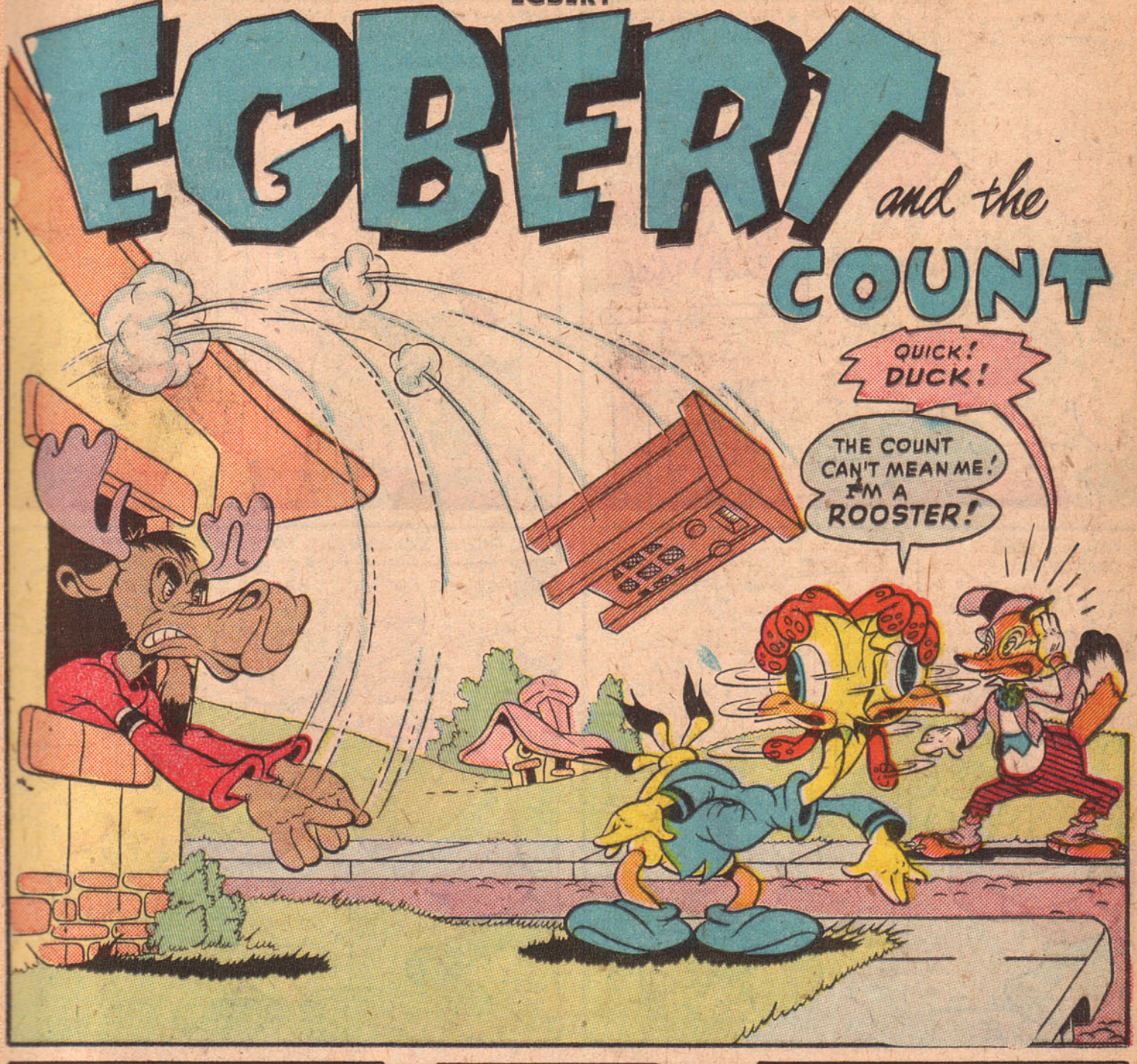

MISS BABS, I'LL CONFESS! I'M THE GUY WHO DROPPED YOUR DRESSER, AND I'M ALL BROKEN UP ABOUT IT!
YOU POOR LITTLE FELLOW! WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT'S THAT AROUND YOUR NECK?

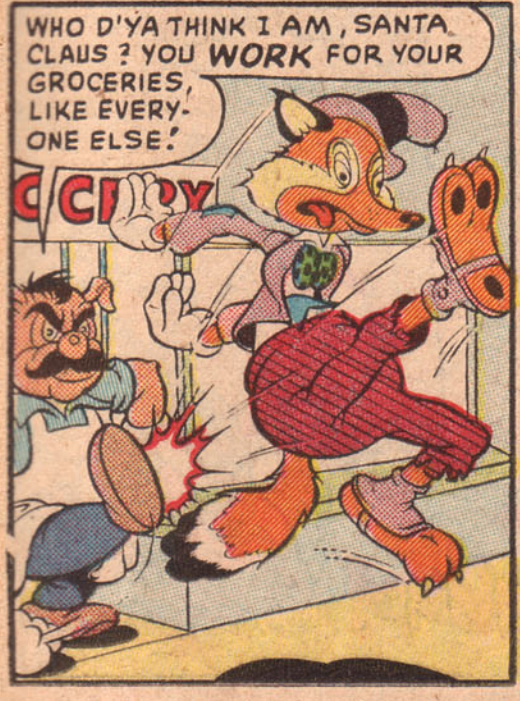

I'M MERWIN! AND IT'S PROBABLY A NOOSE ON MY NECK!
NO, IT'S MY LONG LOST DIAMOND NECKLACE! IT MUST HAVE FALLEN INSIDE THE VANITY DRESSER!

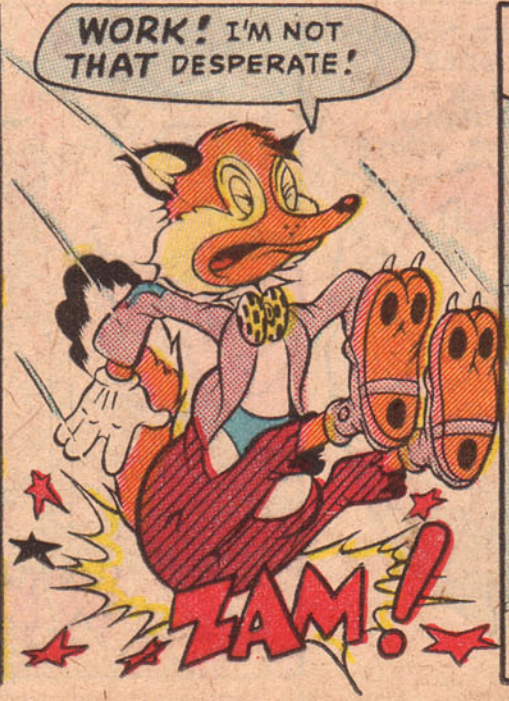

YOU MUST COME WITH ME TO RECEIVE A REWARD, YOU CUTE LITTLE MONKEY!
SMACK!
GOSH! =GULP=


RASPY OLD BOY, YOU'LL HAVE TO FINISH THE JOB FOR THE SLOW MOVING COMPANY! I'M A FAST WORKER, MYSELF!
GRAWK!

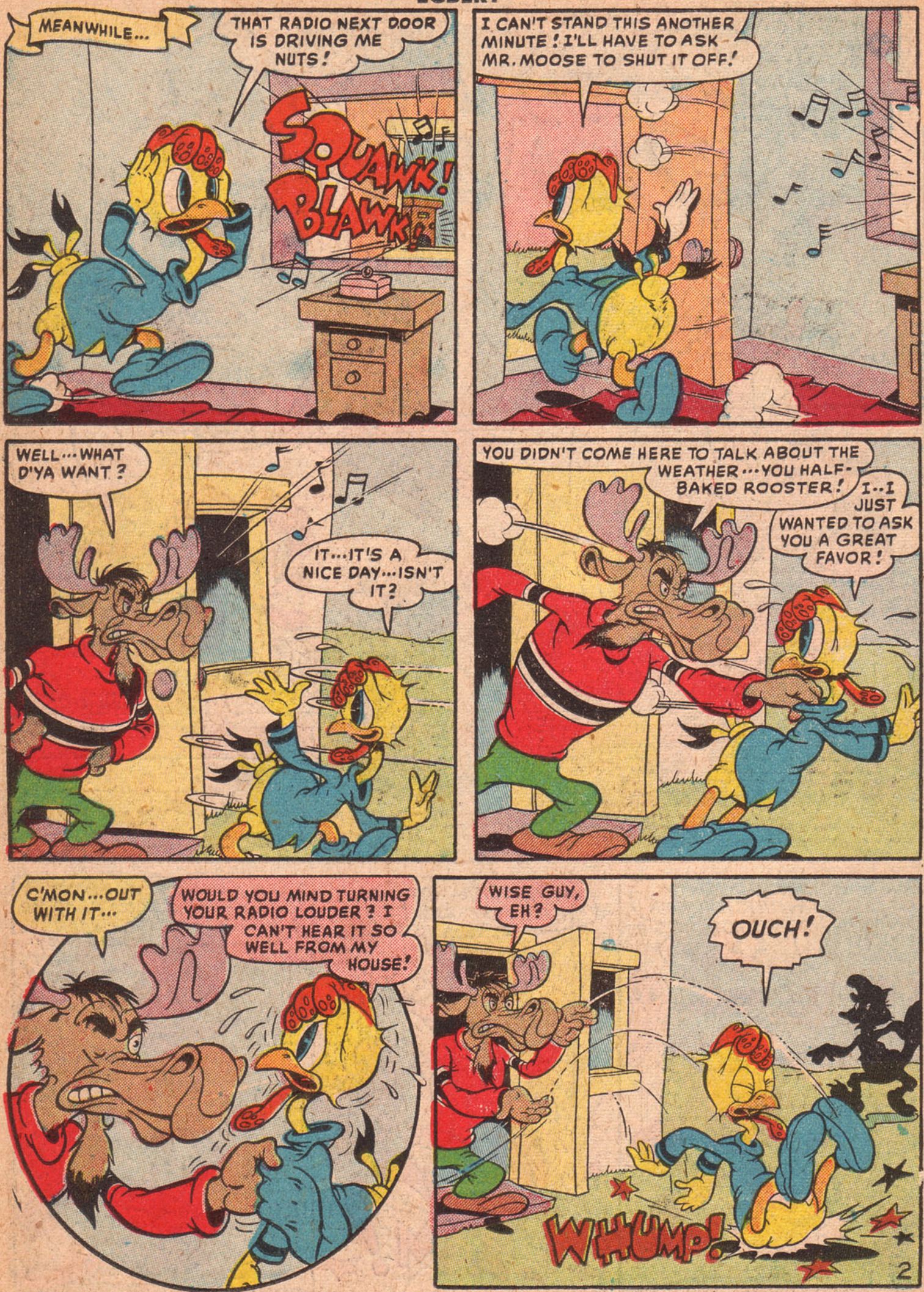
EGBERT and the COUNT

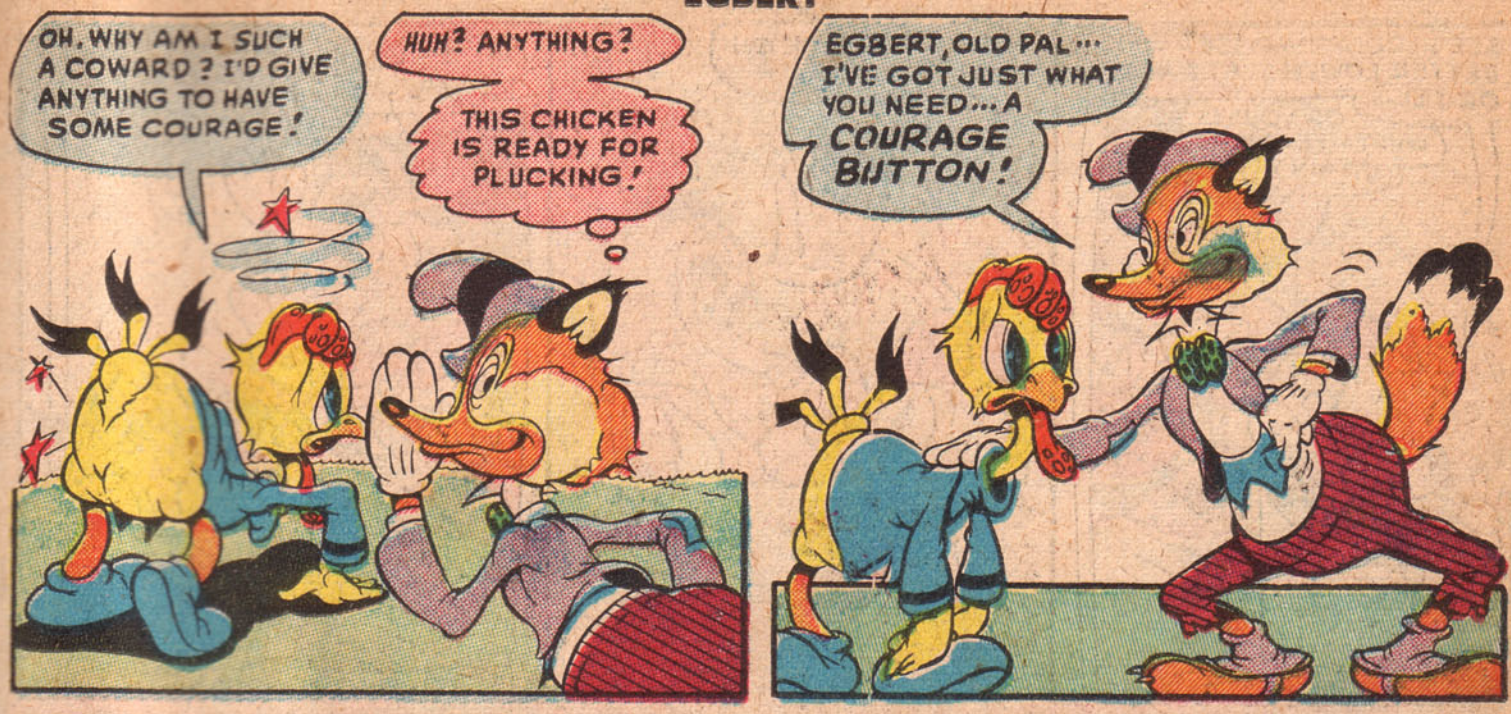


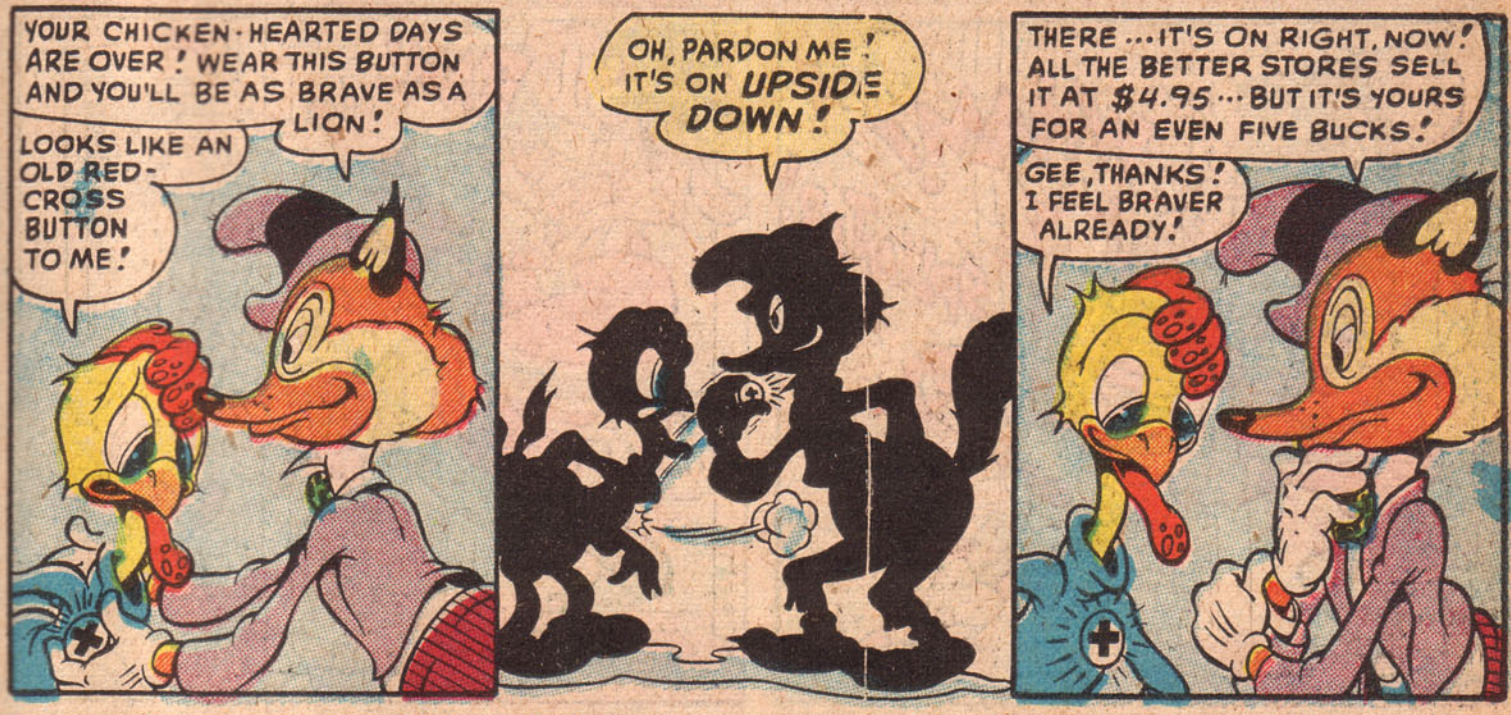


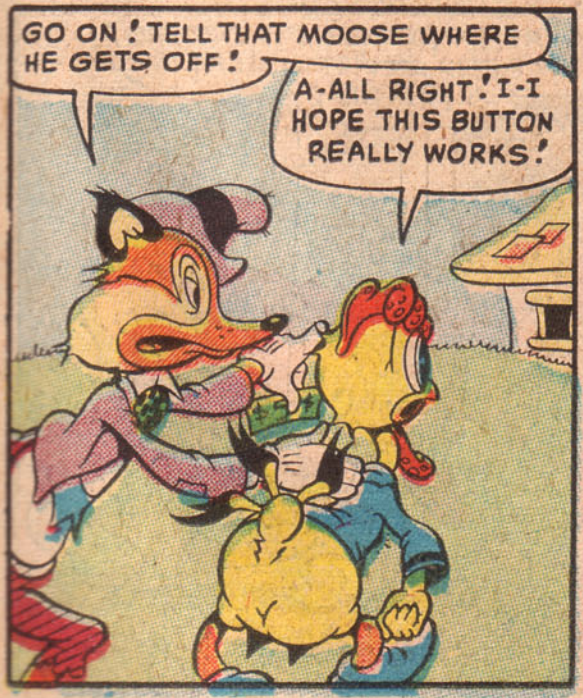


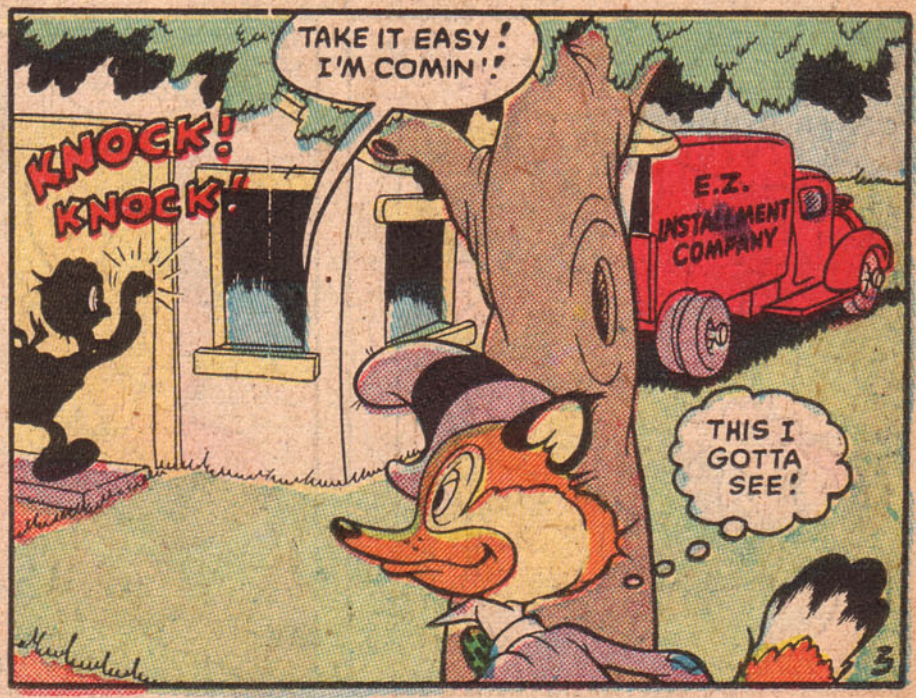



MEANWHILE...
THAT RADIO NEXT DOOR IS DRIVING ME NUTS!
SQUAWK! BLAWK!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANOTHER MINUTE! I'LL HAVE TO ASK MR. MOOSE TO SHUT IT OFF!
WELL... WHAT D'YA WANT?
IT... IT'S A NICE DAY... ISN'T IT?
YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER... YOU HALF-BAKED ROOSTER!
I.. I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU A GREAT FAVOR!
C'MON... OUT WITH IT...
WOULD YOU MIND TURNING YOUR RADIO LOUDER? I CAN'T HEAR IT SO WELL FROM MY HOUSE!
WISE GUY, EH?
OUCH!
WHUMP!

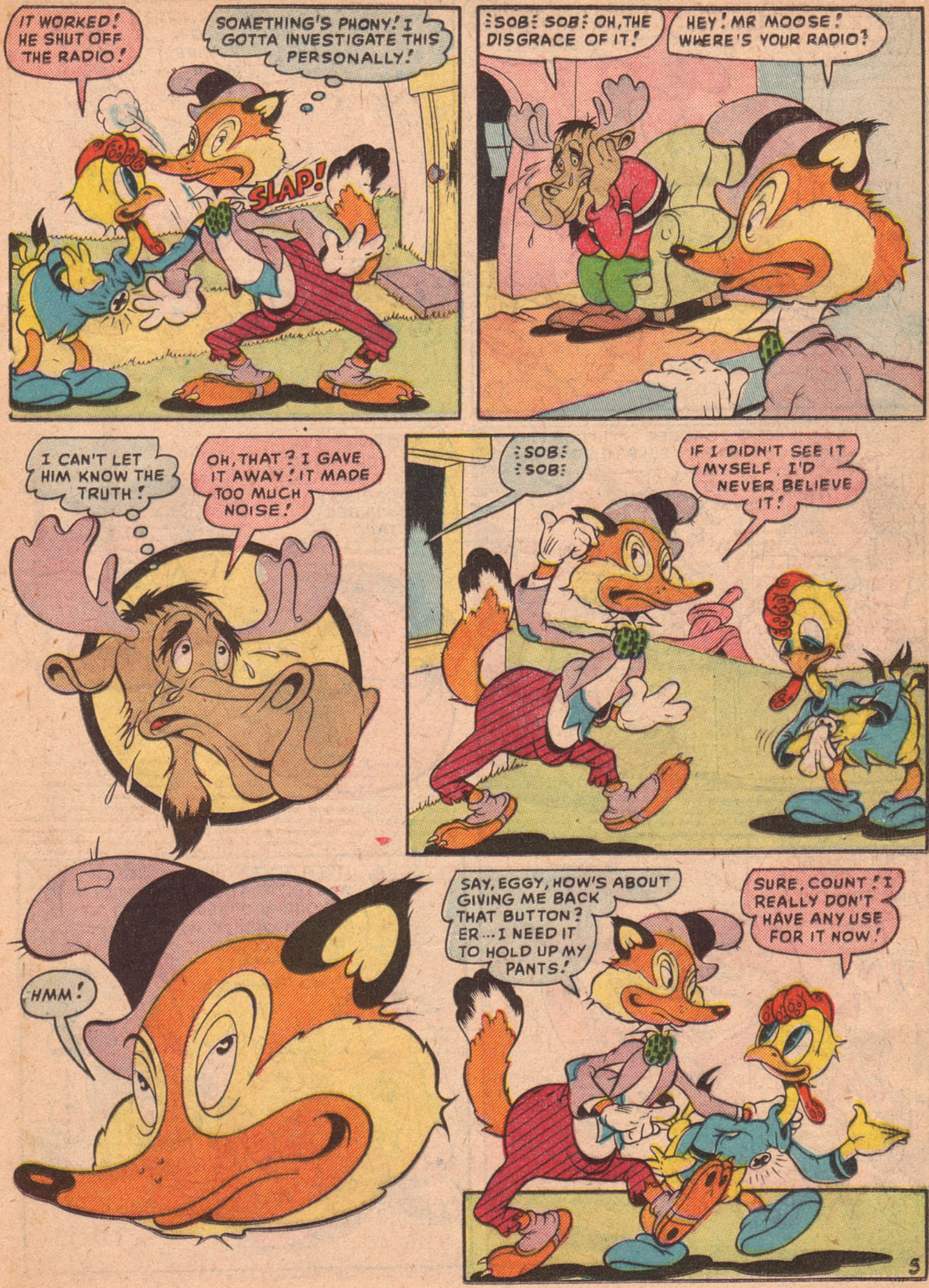

OH, WHY AM I SUCH A COWARD? I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO HAVE SOME COURAGE!
HUH? ANYTHING?
THIS CHICKEN IS READY FOR PLUCKING!
EGBERT, OLD PAL... I'VE GOT JUST WHAT YOU NEED... A COURAGE BUTTON!

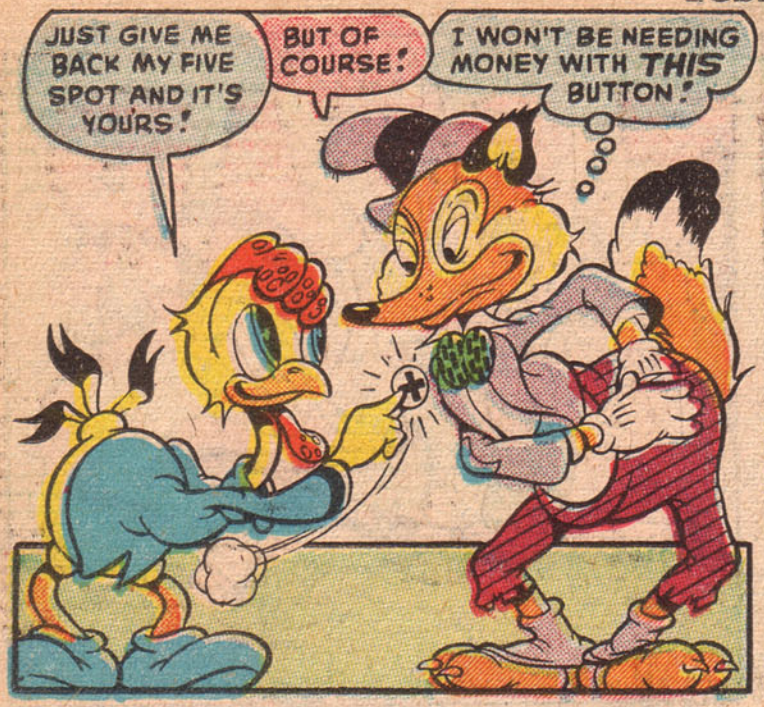

YOUR CHICKEN-HEARTED DAYS ARE OVER! WEAR THIS BUTTON AND YOU'LL BE AS BRAVE AS A LION!
LOOKS LIKE AN OLD RED-CROSS BUTTON TO ME!
OH, PARDON ME! IT'S ON UPSIDE DOWN!
THERE... IT'S ON RIGHT, NOW! ALL THE BETTER STORES SELL IT AT $4.95... BUT IT'S YOURS FOR AN EVEN FIVE BUCKS!
GEE, THANKS! I FEEL BRAVER ALREADY!

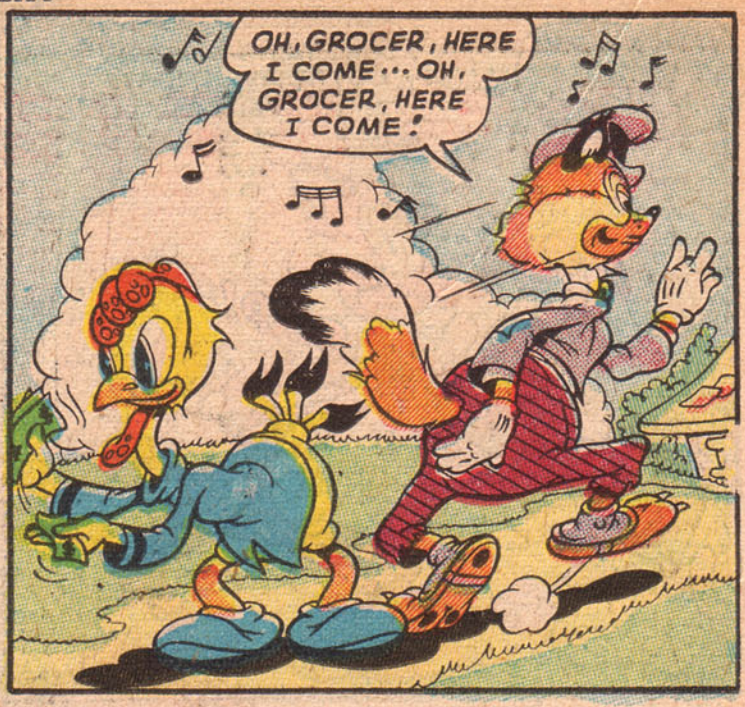

GO ON! TELL THAT MOOSE WHERE HE GETS OFF!
A-ALL RIGHT! I-I HOPE THIS BUTTON REALLY WORKS!

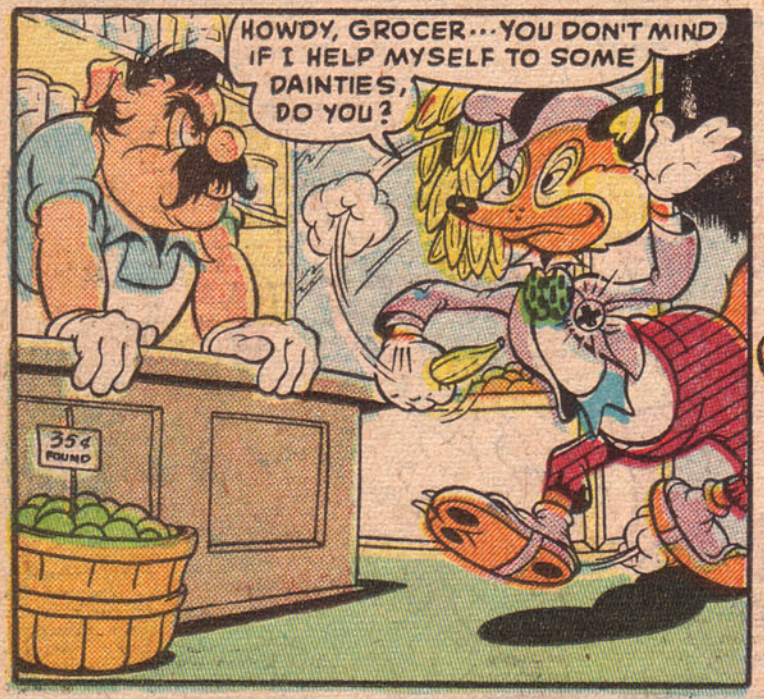

TAKE IT EASY! I'M COMIN'!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
E.Z. INSTALLMENT COMPANY
THIS I GOTTA SEE!

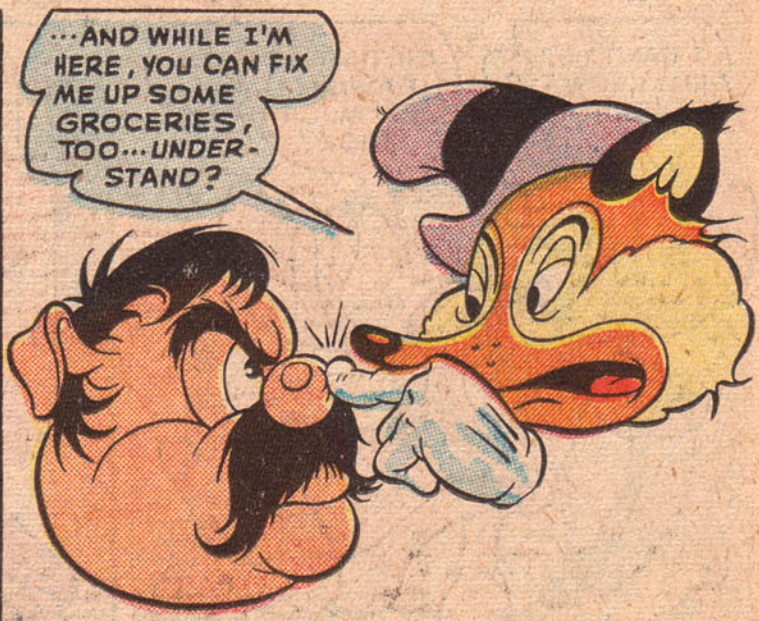

SEE HERE, MR. MOOSE... YOU BETTER LOWER THAT RADIO, OR I'LL...
OR YOU'LL WHAT... FEATHER BRAIN?
DON'T EGG ME ON OR I'LL CRACK YOU ONE!
LIKE THIS?
SWOOSH!
WHAM!
SPLINTER!
NO...
BAM!
YEOW! WHY, YOU RUNTY ROOSTER! I'LL...
...LIKE THIS!
...AND REMEMBER... YOU BETTER KEEP THAT RADIO SHUT OFF FROM NOW ON!
HEY! WHERE'RE YA GOIN' WITH THAT RADIO?
SORRY, BO! ORDERS IS ORDERS! Y'AIN'T PAID AN INSTALLMENT IN 6 MONTHS!

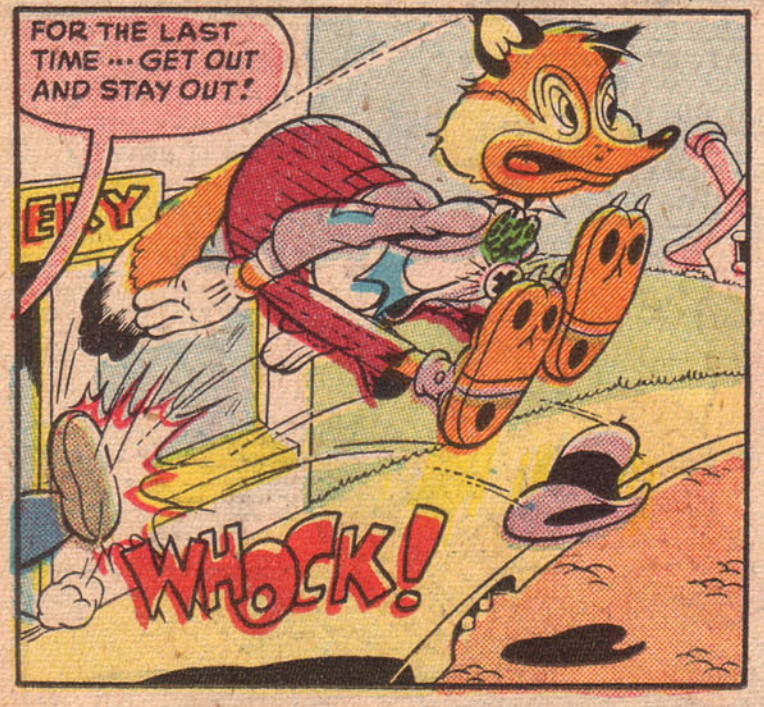

IT WORKED! HE SHUT OFF THE RADIO!
SOMETHING'S PHONY! I GOTTA INVESTIGATE THIS PERSONALLY!
SLAP!
:SOB: SOB: OH, THE DISGRACE OF IT!
HEY! MR MOOSE! WHERE'S YOUR RADIO?
I CAN'T LET HIM KNOW THE TRUTH!
OH, THAT? I GAVE IT AWAY! IT MADE TOO MUCH NOISE!
:SOB: :SOB:
IF I DIDN'T SEE IT MYSELF, I'D NEVER BELIEVE IT!
HMM!
SAY, EGGY, HOW'S ABOUT GIVING ME BACK THAT BUTTON? ER... I NEED IT TO HOLD UP MY PANTS!
SURE, COUNT! I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY USE FOR IT NOW!

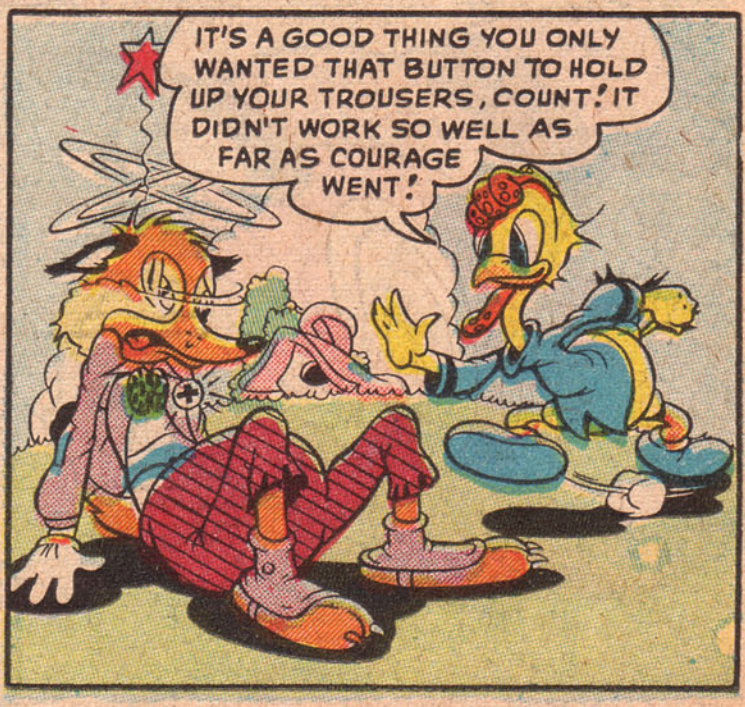

JUST GIVE ME BACK MY FIVE SPOT AND IT'S YOURS!
BUT OF COURSE!
I WON'T BE NEEDING MONEY WITH THIS BUTTON!

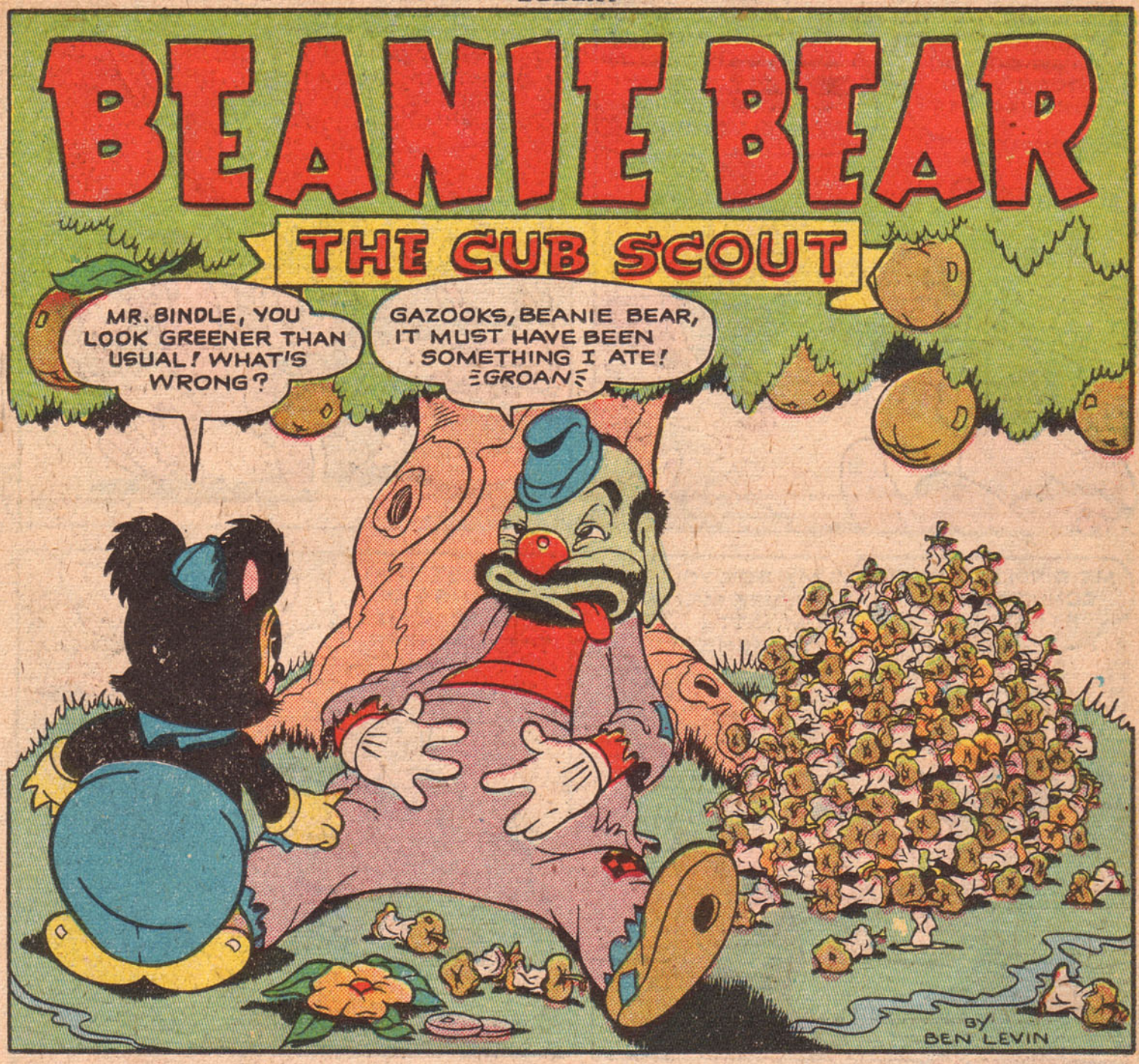

OH, GROCER, HERE I COME ... OH, GROCER, HERE I COME!


HOWDY, GROCER ... YOU DON'T MIND IF I HELP MYSELF TO SOME DAINTIES, DO YOU?
35¢ POUND

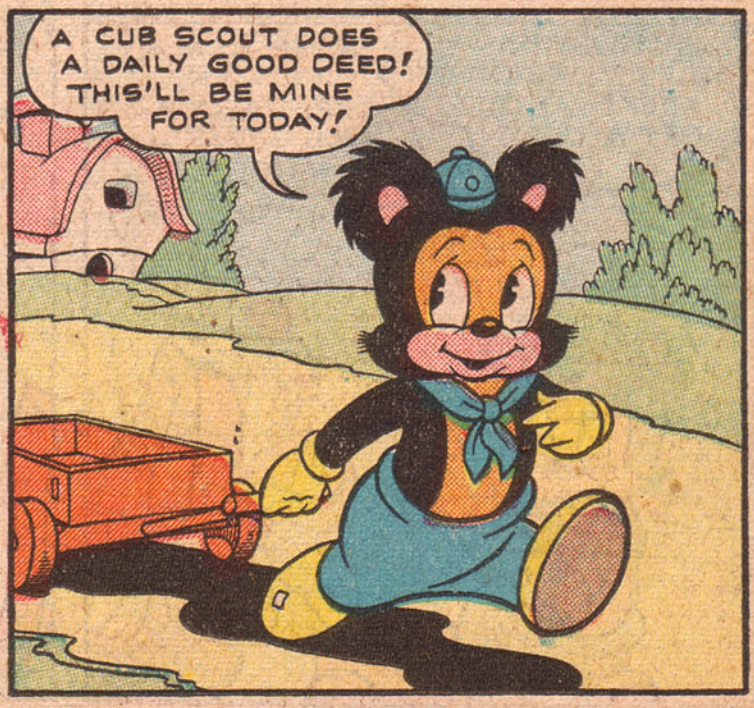

... AND WHILE I'M HERE, YOU CAN FIX ME UP SOME GROCERIES, TOO ... UNDERSTAND?

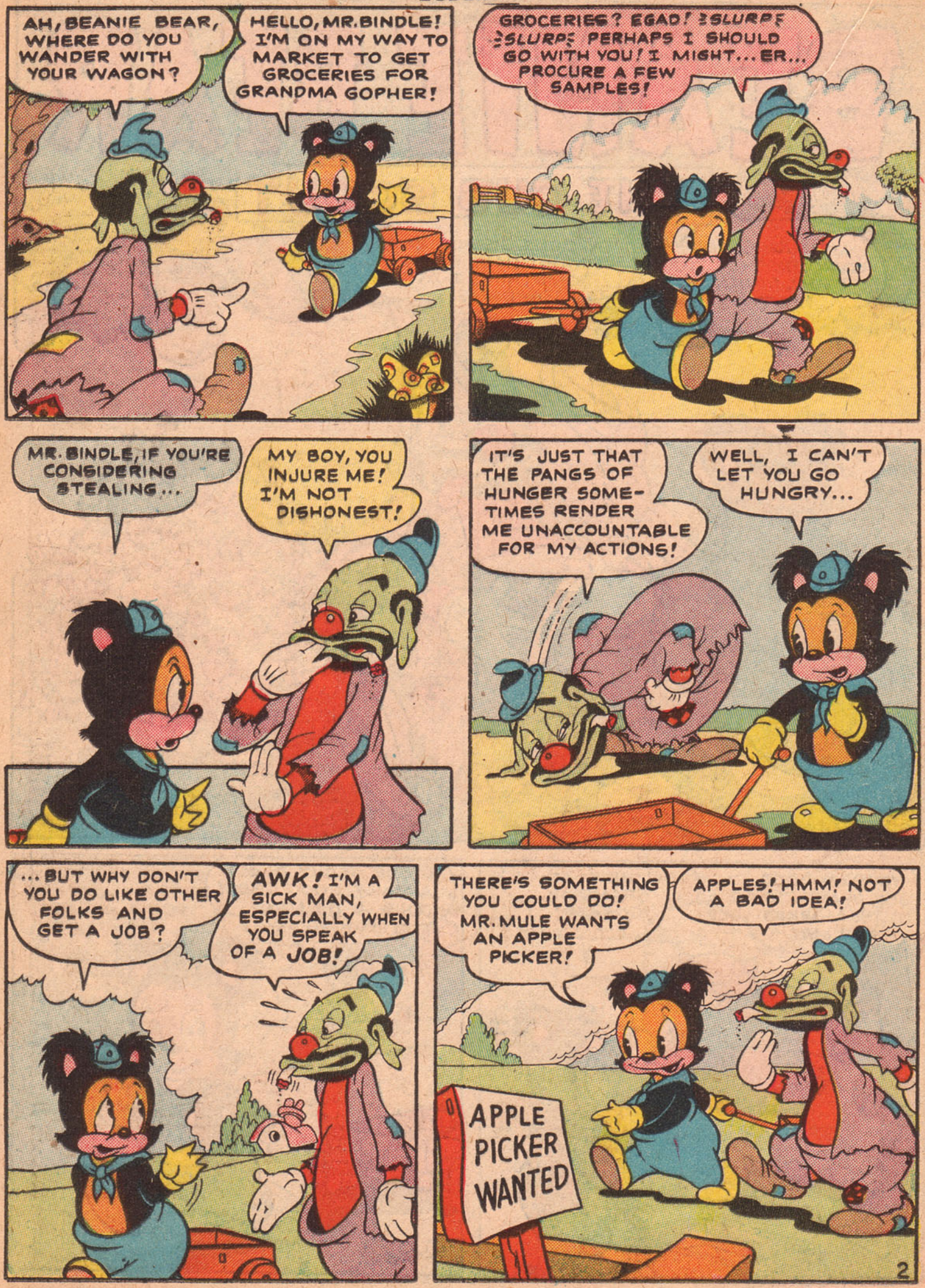

FOR THE LAST TIME ... GET OUT AND STAY OUT!
WHOCK!

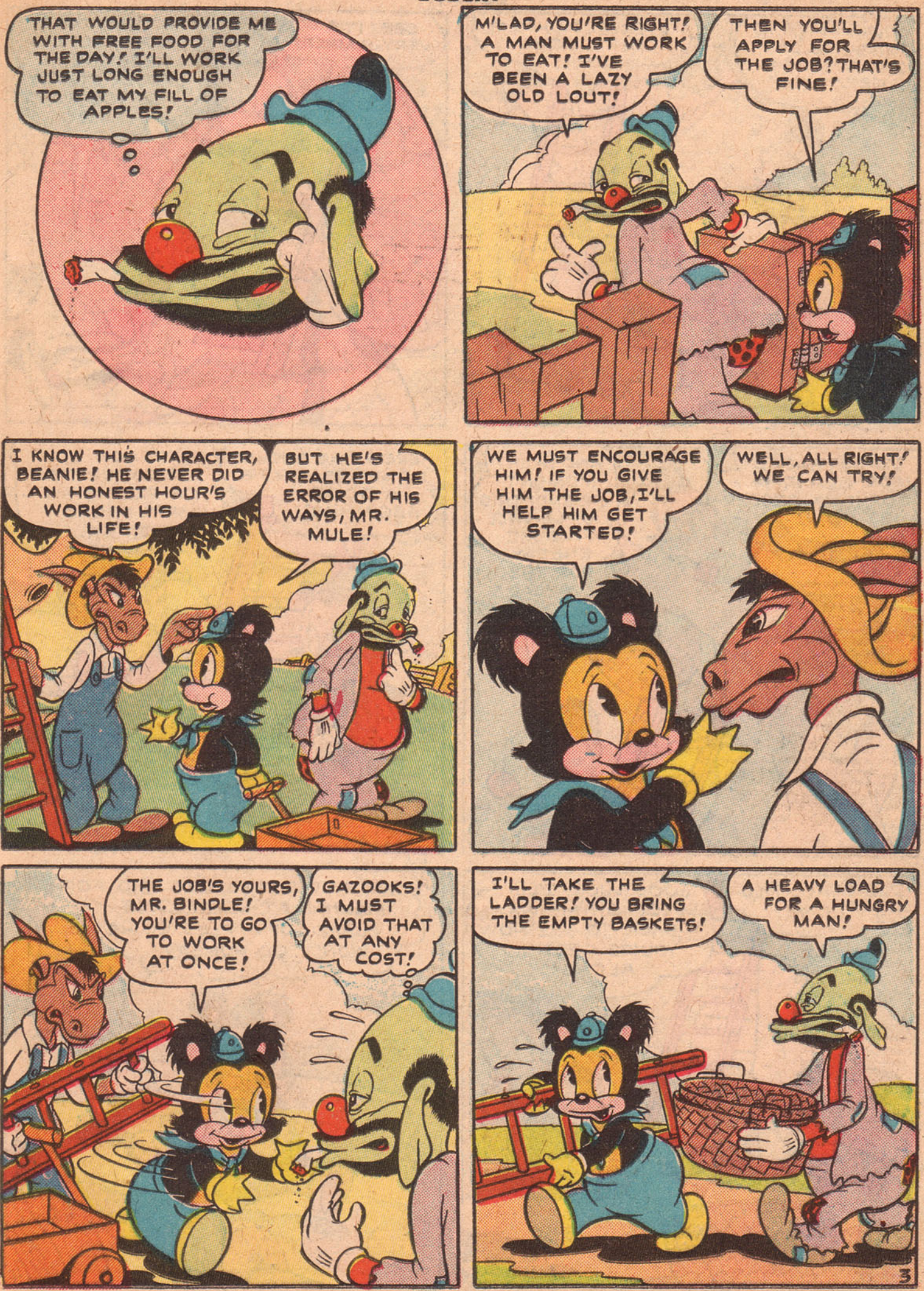

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU ONLY WANTED THAT BUTTON TO HOLD UP YOUR TROUSERS, COUNT! IT DIDN'T WORK SO WELL AS FAR AS COURAGE WENT!

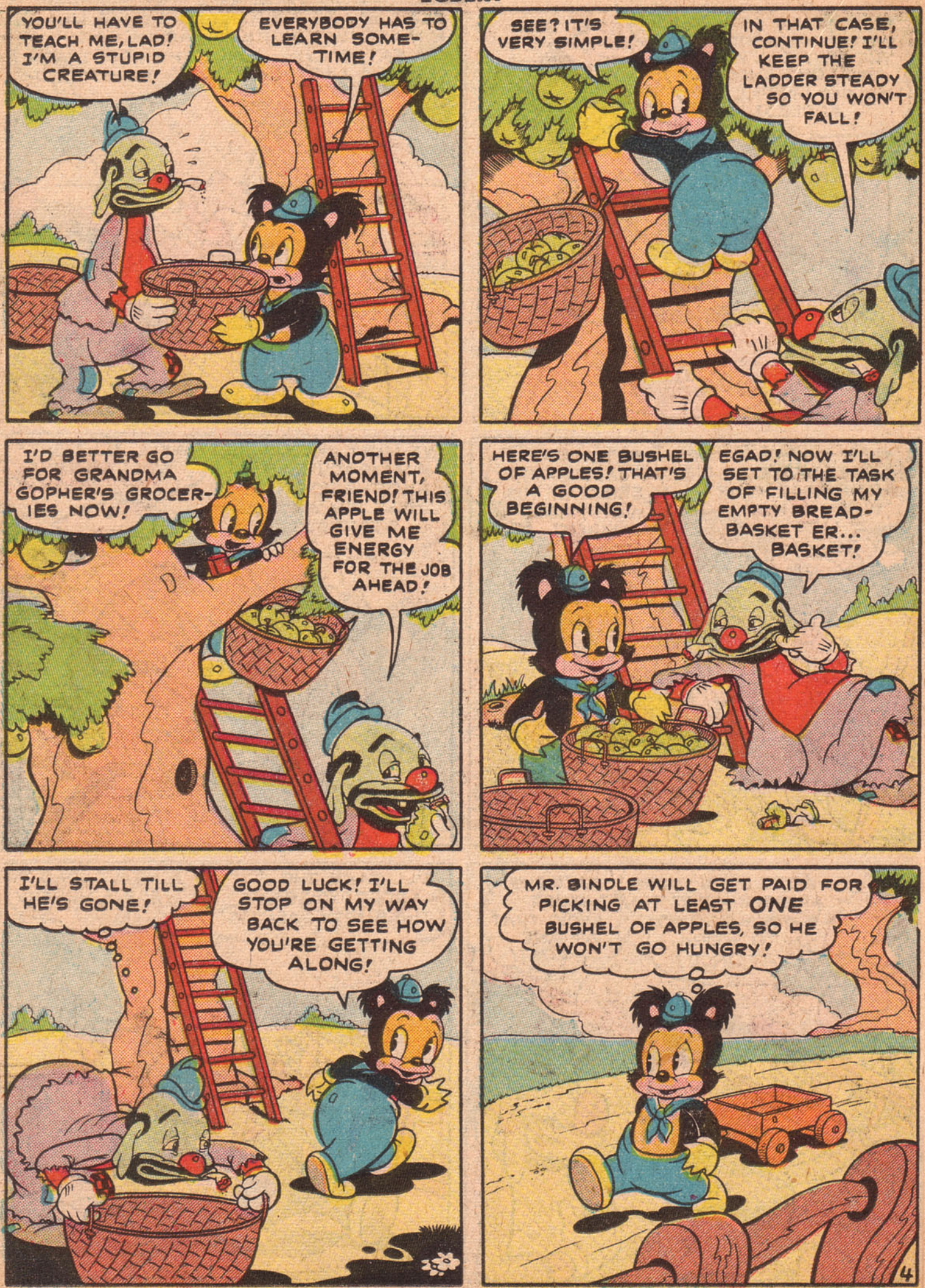

BEANIE BEAR
THE CUB SCOUT
MR. BINDLE, YOU LOOK GREENER THAN USUAL! WHAT'S WRONG?
GAZOOKS, BEANIE BEAR, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING I ATE! =GROAN=
BY BEN LEVIN

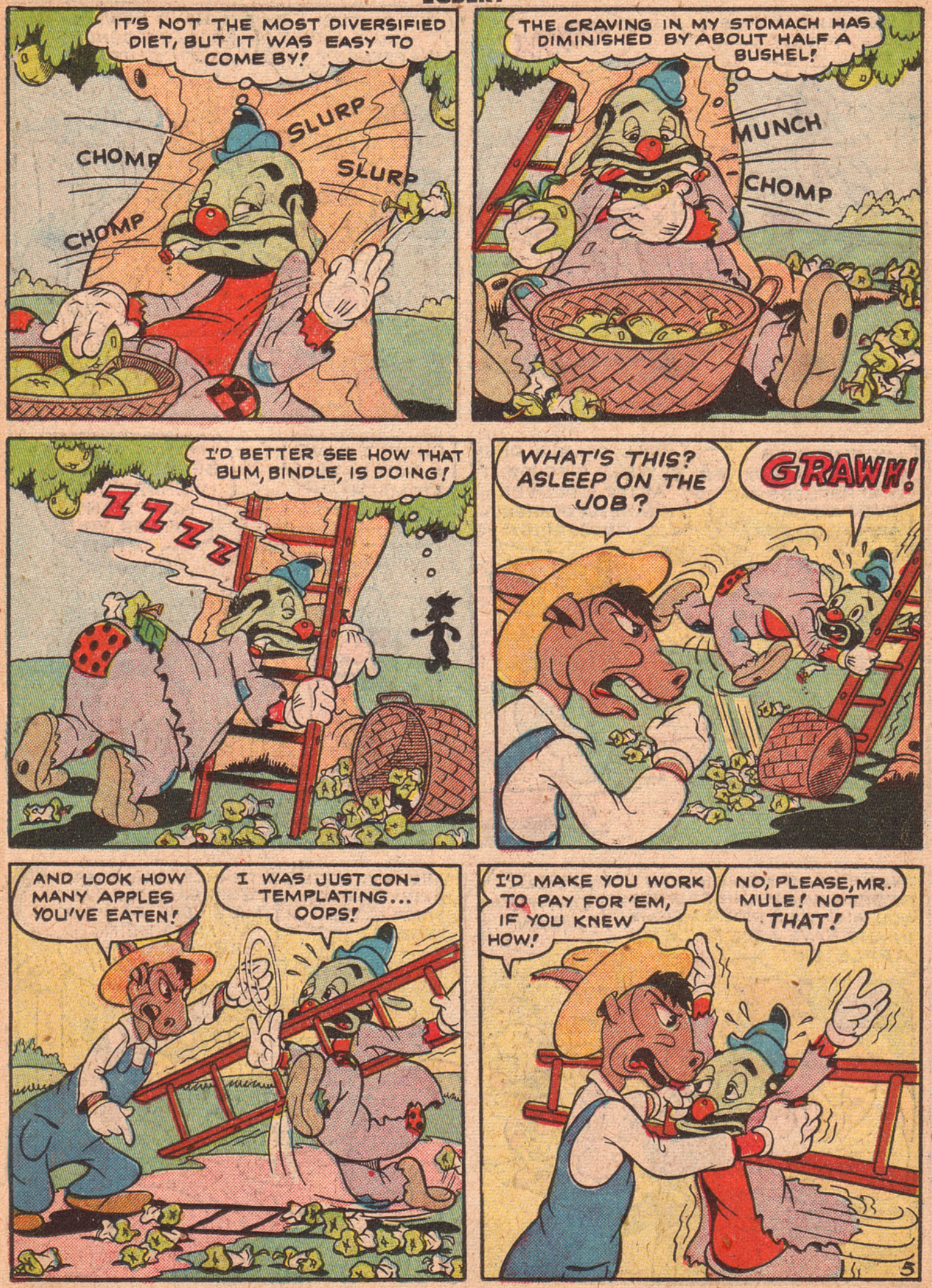

YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, BEANIE, TO GO TO THE MARKET FOR ME!
I'LL BE GLAD TO, GRANDMA GOPHER!

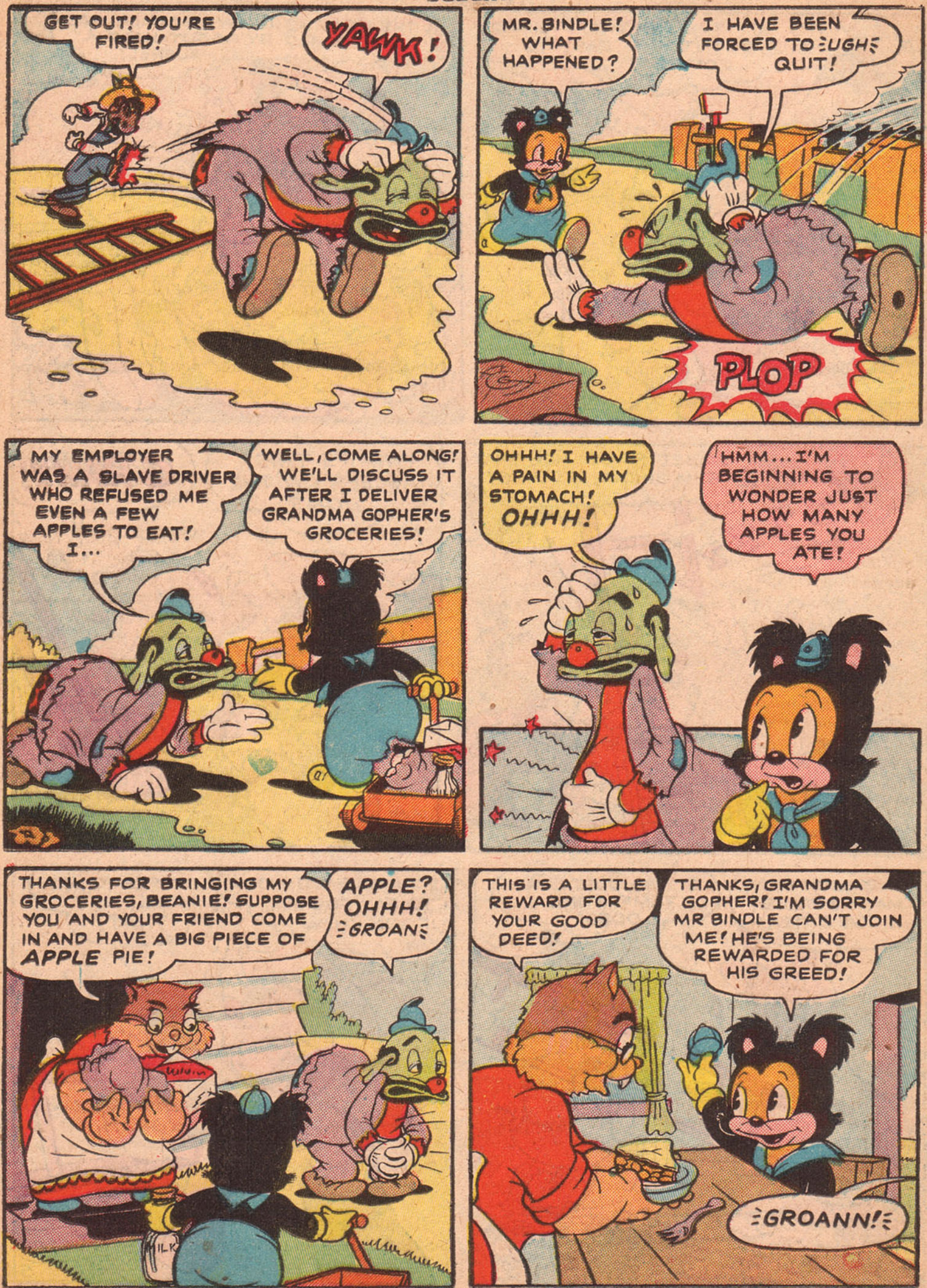

A CUB SCOUT DOES A DAILY GOOD DEED! THIS'LL BE MINE FOR TODAY!


AH, BEANIE BEAR, WHERE DO YOU WANDER WITH YOUR WAGON?
HELLO, MR. BINDLE! I'M ON MY WAY TO MARKET TO GET GROCERIES FOR GRANDMA GOPHER!
GROCERIES? EGAD! SLURP! SLURP! PERHAPS I SHOULD GO WITH YOU! I MIGHT... ER... PROCURE A FEW SAMPLES!
MR. BINDLE, IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING STEALING...
MY BOY, YOU INJURE ME! I'M NOT DISHONEST!
IT'S JUST THAT THE PANGS OF HUNGER SOMETIMES RENDER ME UNACCOUNTABLE FOR MY ACTIONS!
WELL, I CAN'T LET YOU GO HUNGRY...
...BUT WHY DON'T YOU DO LIKE OTHER FOLKS AND GET A JOB?
AWK! I'M A SICK MAN, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU SPEAK OF A JOB!
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU COULD DO! MR. MULE WANTS AN APPLE PICKER!
APPLES! HMM! NOT A BAD IDEA!
APPLE PICKER WANTED


THAT WOULD PROVIDE ME WITH FREE FOOD FOR THE DAY! I'LL WORK JUST LONG ENOUGH TO EAT MY FILL OF APPLES!
M'LAD, YOU'RE RIGHT! A MAN MUST WORK TO EAT! I'VE BEEN A LAZY OLD LOUT!
THEN YOU'LL APPLY FOR THE JOB? THAT'S FINE!
I KNOW THIS CHARACTER, BEANIE! HE NEVER DID AN HONEST HOUR'S WORK IN HIS LIFE!
BUT HE'S REALIZED THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS, MR. MULE!
WE MUST ENCOURAGE HIM! IF YOU GIVE HIM THE JOB, I'LL HELP HIM GET STARTED!
WELL, ALL RIGHT! WE CAN TRY!
THE JOB'S YOURS, MR. BINDLE! YOU'RE TO GO TO WORK AT ONCE!
GAZOOKS! I MUST AVOID THAT AT ANY COST!
I'LL TAKE THE LADDER! YOU BRING THE EMPTY BASKETS!
A HEAVY LOAD FOR A HUNGRY MAN!


YOU'LL HAVE TO TEACH ME, LAD! I'M A STUPID CREATURE!
EVERYBODY HAS TO LEARN SOMETIME!
SEE? IT'S VERY SIMPLE!
IN THAT CASE, CONTINUE! I'LL KEEP THE LADDER STEADY SO YOU WON'T FALL!
I'D BETTER GO FOR GRANDMA GOPHER'S GROCERIES NOW!
ANOTHER MOMENT, FRIEND! THIS APPLE WILL GIVE ME ENERGY FOR THE JOB AHEAD!
HERE'S ONE BUSHEL OF APPLES! THAT'S A GOOD BEGINNING!
EGAD! NOW I'LL SET TO THE TASK OF FILLING MY EMPTY BREADBASKET ER... BASKET!
I'LL STALL TILL HE'S GONE!
GOOD LUCK! I'LL STOP ON MY WAY BACK TO SEE HOW YOU'RE GETTING ALONG!
MR. BINDLE WILL GET PAID FOR PICKING AT LEAST ONE BUSHEL OF APPLES, SO HE WON'T GO HUNGRY!
4


IT'S NOT THE MOST DIVERSIFIED DIET, BUT IT WAS EASY TO COME BY!
CHOMP
SLURP
SLURP
CHOMP
THE CRAVING IN MY STOMACH HAS DIMINISHED BY ABOUT HALF A BUSHEL!
MUNCH
CHOMP
I'D BETTER SEE HOW THAT BUM, BINDLE, IS DOING!
ZZZZ
WHAT'S THIS? ASLEEP ON THE JOB?
GRAWH!
AND LOOK HOW MANY APPLES YOU'VE EATEN!
I WAS JUST CONTEMPLATING... OOPS!
I'D MAKE YOU WORK TO PAY FOR 'EM, IF YOU KNEW HOW!
NO, PLEASE, MR. MULE! NOT THAT!


GET OUT! YOU'RE FIRED!
YAWK!
MR. BINDLE! WHAT HAPPENED?
I HAVE BEEN FORCED TO =UGH= QUIT!
PLOP
MY EMPLOYER WAS A SLAVE DRIVER WHO REFUSED ME EVEN A FEW APPLES TO EAT! I...
WELL, COME ALONG! WE'LL DISCUSS IT AFTER I DELIVER GRANDMA GOPHER'S GROCERIES!
OHHH! I HAVE A PAIN IN MY STOMACH! OHHH!
HMM... I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER JUST HOW MANY APPLES YOU ATE!
THANKS FOR BRINGING MY GROCERIES, BEANIE! SUPPOSE YOU AND YOUR FRIEND COME IN AND HAVE A BIG PIECE OF APPLE PIE!
APPLE? OHHH! =GROAN=
THIS IS A LITTLE REWARD FOR YOUR GOOD DEED!
THANKS, GRANDMA GOPHER! I'M SORRY MR BINDLE CAN'T JOIN ME! HE'S BEING REWARDED FOR HIS GREED!
=GROANN!=

EGBERT'S INSPIRATION

THE knock on the door was sharp and imperative. Egbert the Rooster leaped from his chair with a cluck of joy. "He's come. I knew he'd come when he got my letter."

He ran to the door and then, before he slid back the bolts, a touch of caution stopped him. Instead, he called, "Who's there?"

A harsh, rasping voice answered, "Who were you expecting, pea-brain? Shirley Temple?"

Egbert joyously threw open the door. On the step stood a strange rooster, taller than Egbert, with a lean, tough look; sharp eyes and the scars of many battles on his neck. Egbert spread his wings in delight. "You've come. I knew you would. Come right in, Battling Bob."

The strange rooster sauntered in, looking around with a scornful eye. "You're about the dumbest-looking chicken I ever saw, Egbert. I don't know why I do these things but your letter intrigued me. So you've got a fox who keeps yearning for a chicken dinner, eh?"

"That's right," Egbert babbled. "His name is The Count and when he isn't stealing everybody's money, he's chasing us around, trying to invite us to dinner. We're to be the dinner. That's why, when I read in the paper that Battling Bob, the toughest rooster and champion cock-fighter of the world, was near-by, I wrote that letter. I knew you'd be glad to help us chickens by teaching The Count a lesson."

"What do I do, stupid?" growled Battling Bob. "Do I go rap on his door and start mopping up on him when he answers?"

"Oh, no," Egbert giggled. "I'm not as dumb as I look, I hope. I've got everything planned. First I passed the word around that I was expecting my cousin to visit me, Mrs. Fat Henn. Then, just to be sure, I sent The Count a book entitled '27 Ways To Cook Chicken.' When he reads that and hears about my fat cousin, he'll come galloping over here for a feast. You just wait and see. I'm not so stupid after all, am I?"

Before Battling Bob could answer, there was a knock at the door and the silky voice of The Count called, "Oh, Egbert, my plump little friend, open the door for your affectionate and hungr . . . er—lonely pal, The Count. I hear you have company I'm simply starv . . . I mean, dying to meet."

"Oh, no," Egbert called back, winking at Battling Bob. "I know your tricks, you old Count, you. You can't come in—even if I did sort of forget to lock my front door after my company arrived."

"Is that so?" roared The Count in his natural voice. "Thanks for telling me, dough-brain."

With a crash, the front door burst open and The Count bounded in, licking his chops. "You know what I'm going to do with you, Egg-Head—I mean, Egbert? I'm going to cook you all twenty-seven ways."

Then his eyes fell on Battling Bob. That rooster strutted out in front of Egbert, his hat shoved on one side. "And I'm going to stitch you up one side and pink your seams, you no-account Count. I'll put you down for the long count."

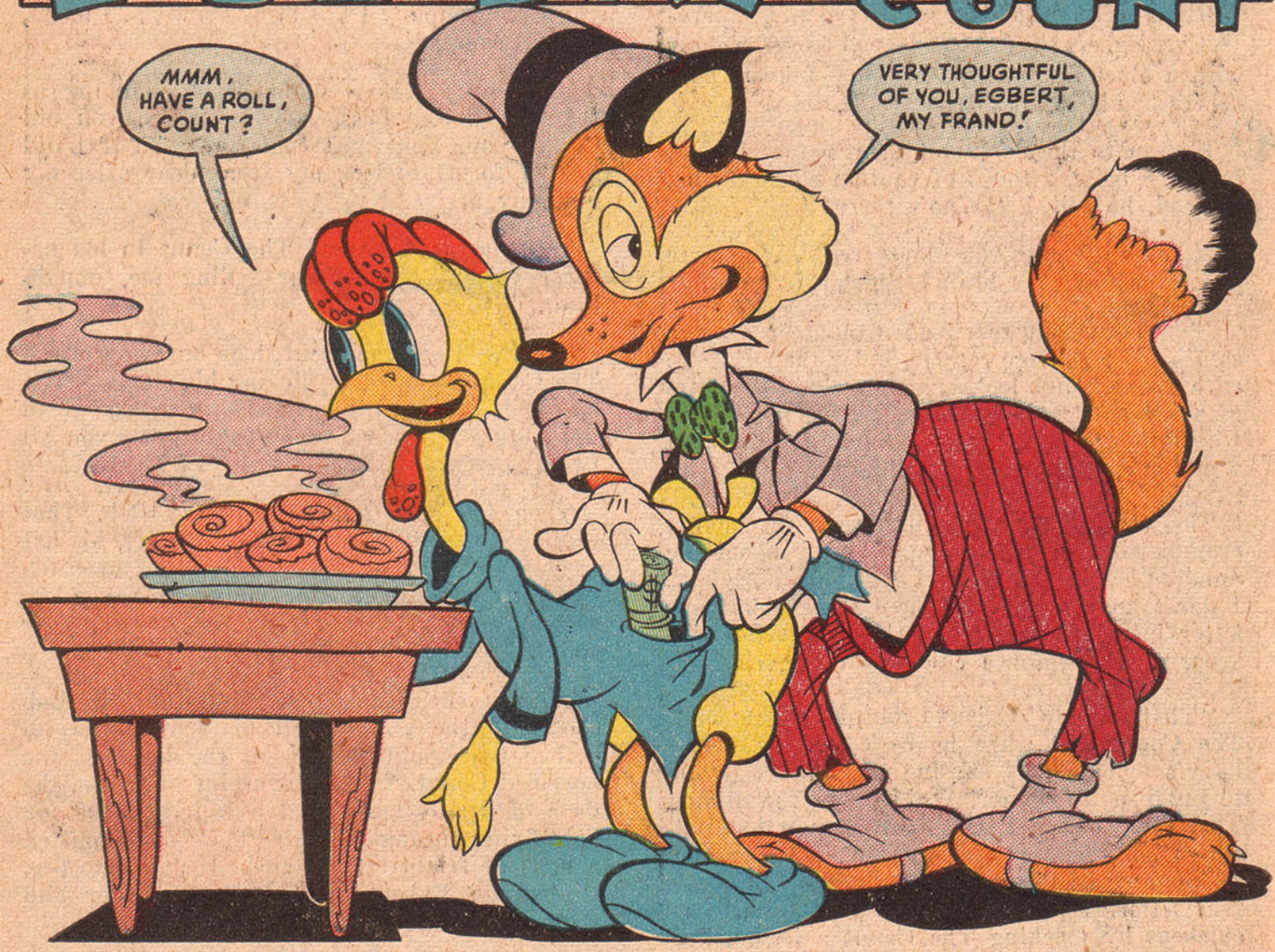
With a shriek of battle joy, Battling Bob shot into the air, clicked his long spurs together twice and landed on the head of the horrified Count. There was a blur of action, the flash of deadly spurs and a whirlwind of fox hair flying through the air. The Count emitted a howl of fright and anguish. He tried to flee, slipped on Egbert's freshly waxed floor and went slamming into the wall instead.

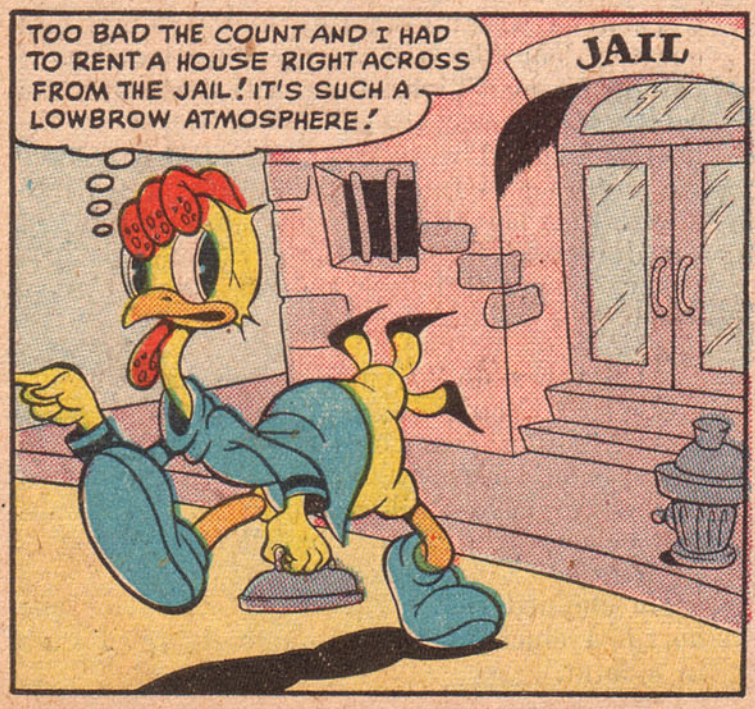
Then he was up, wailing and yowling, and out the door like a flash, shedding bunches of hair in his mad flight through the woods to the safety of his own shack. Egbert rolled on the floor, convulsed with laughter. "Did you ever see anything so funny in your life? It will be a long time before The Count thinks of chicken for dinner again. Everything worked out perfectly. Now I'll bet you don't think I'm so dumb."

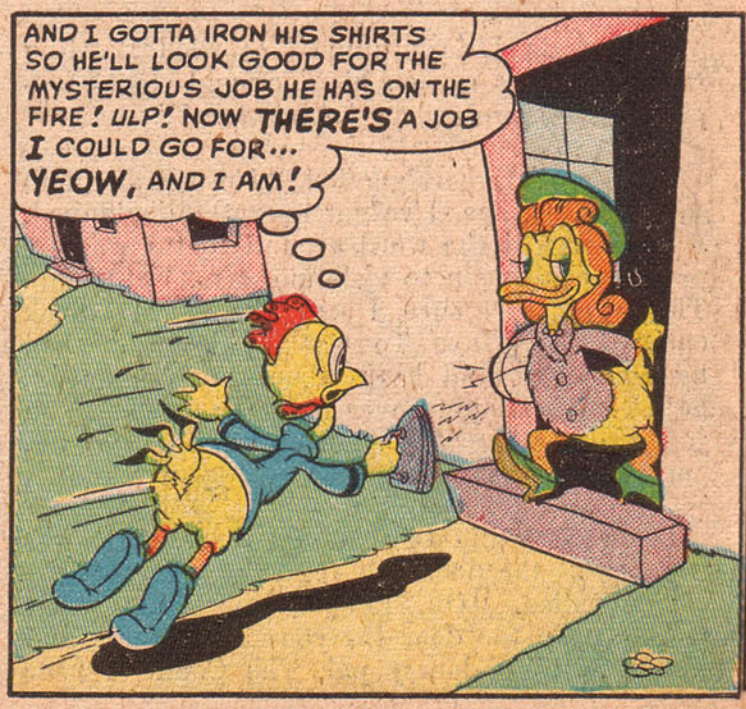
"I'll bet I do," Battling Bob growled disgustedly. "You're even dumber. Suppose I hadn't gotten your letter or decided not to come? You'd already stirred The Count up so he had to have chicken to eat. Where would you be now if I hadn't showed up?"

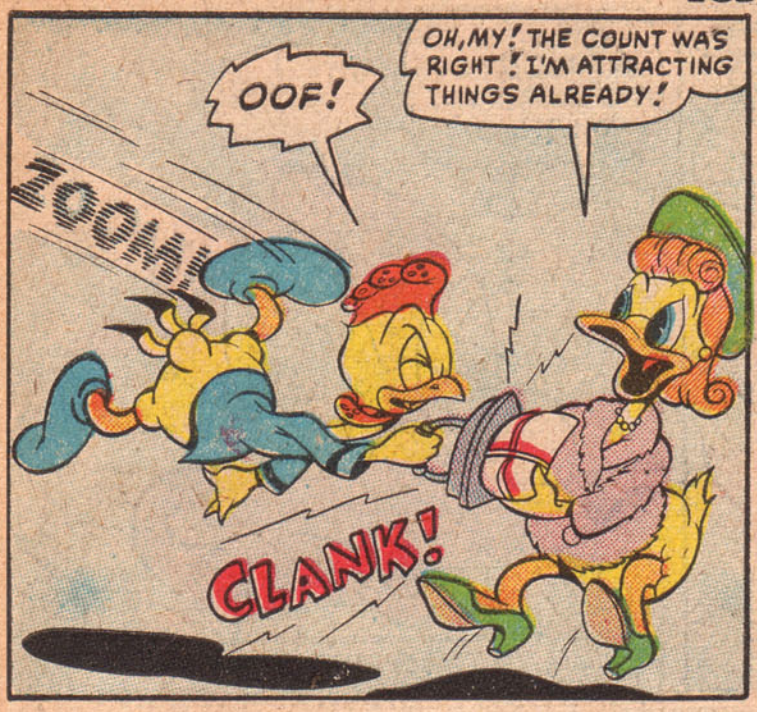
He stopped then, because Egbert, after one horrified cluck of realization, had keeled over in a faint.

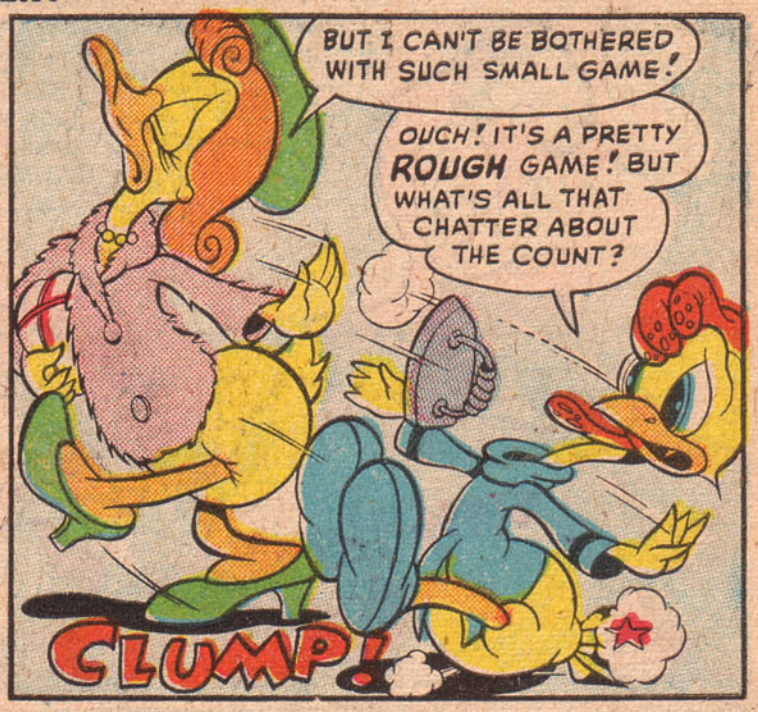
EGBERT and the COUNT

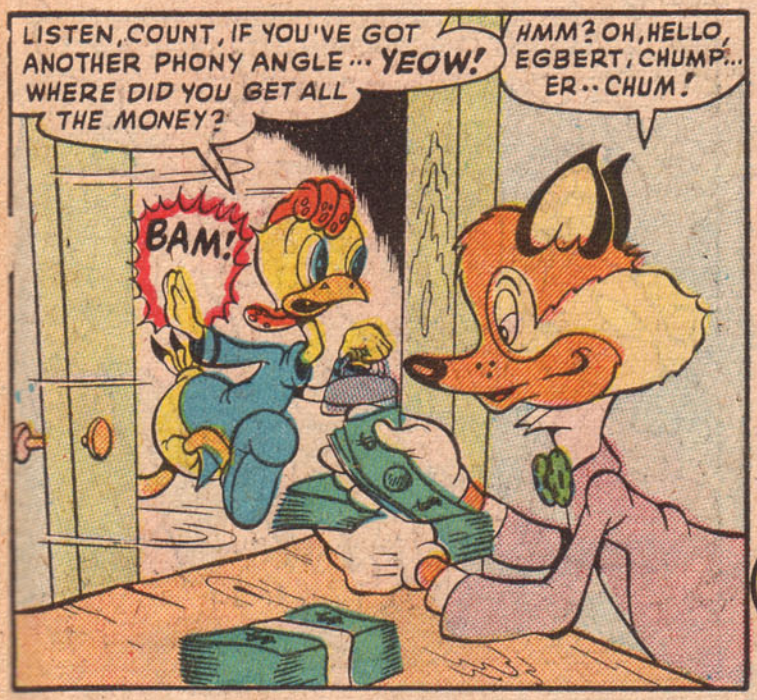


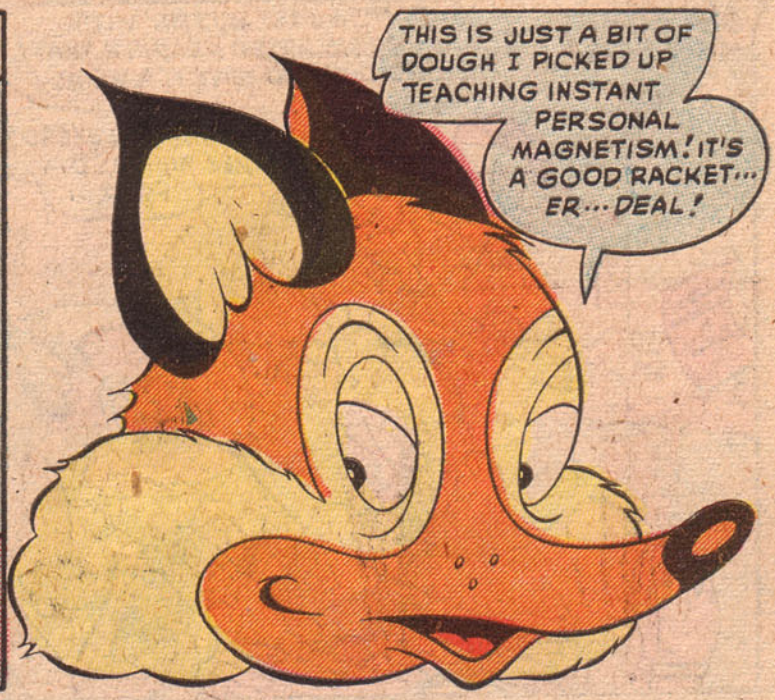


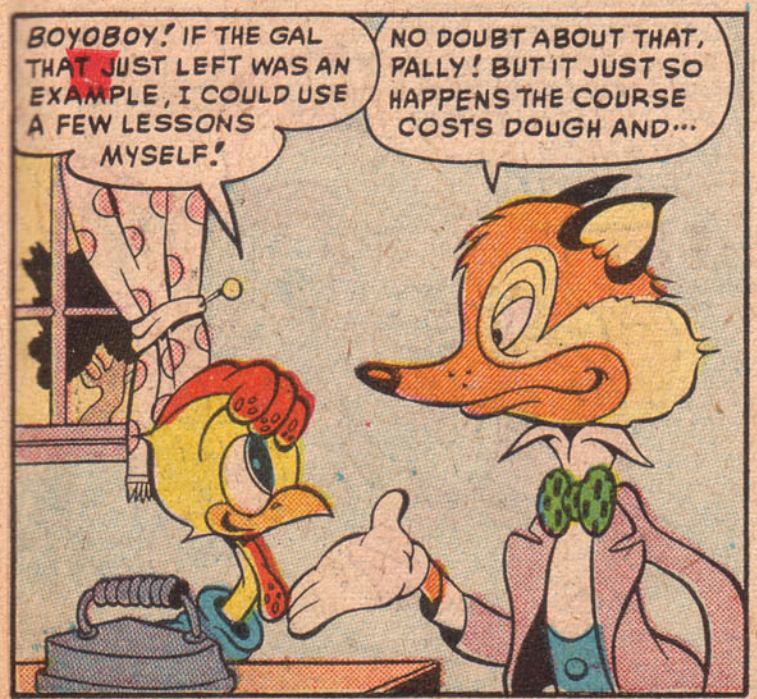


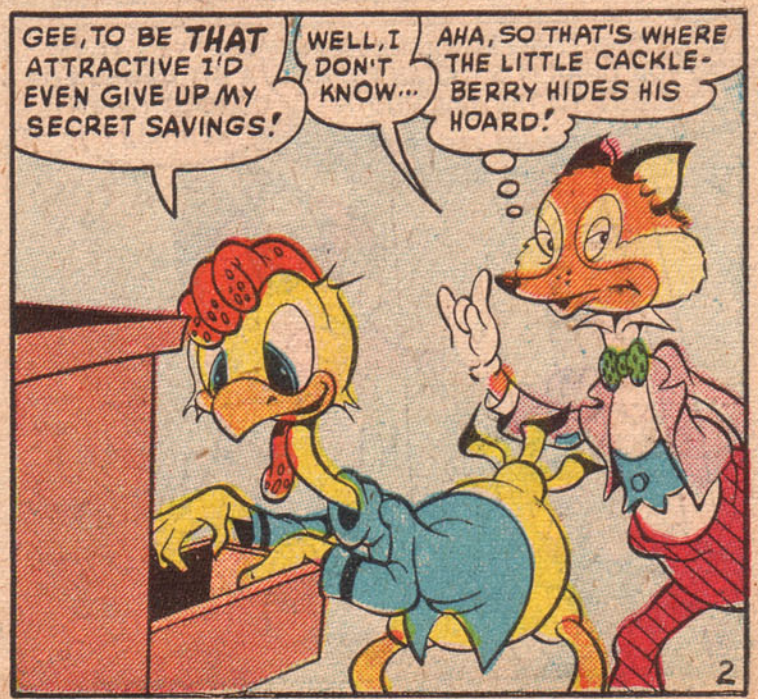

OOF!
OH, MY! THE COUNT WAS RIGHT! I'M ATTRACTING THINGS ALREADY!
KOOM!
CLANK!

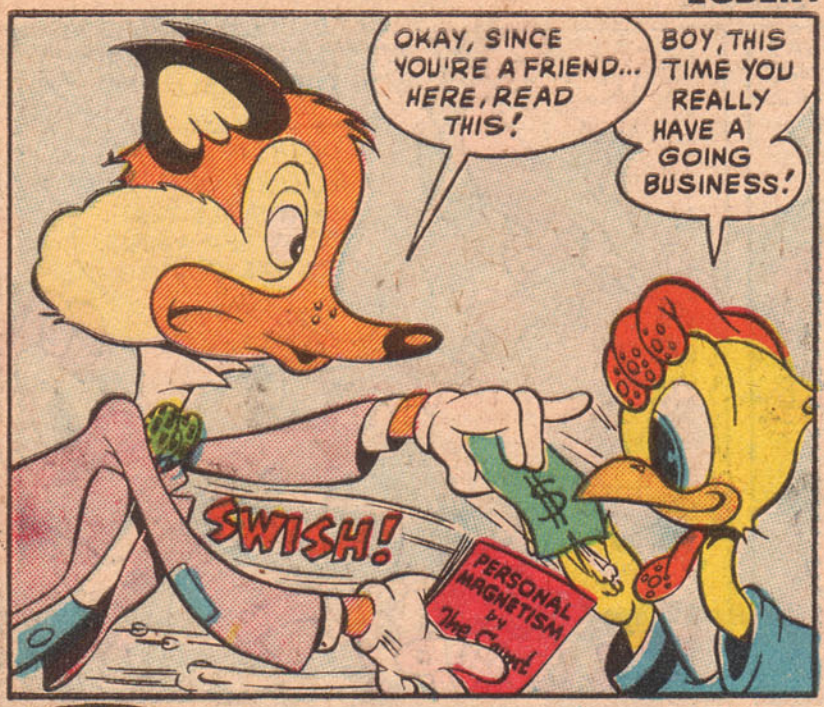

BUT I CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH SUCH SMALL GAME!
OUCH! IT'S A PRETTY ROUGH GAME! BUT WHAT'S ALL THAT CHATTER ABOUT THE COUNT?
CLUMP!

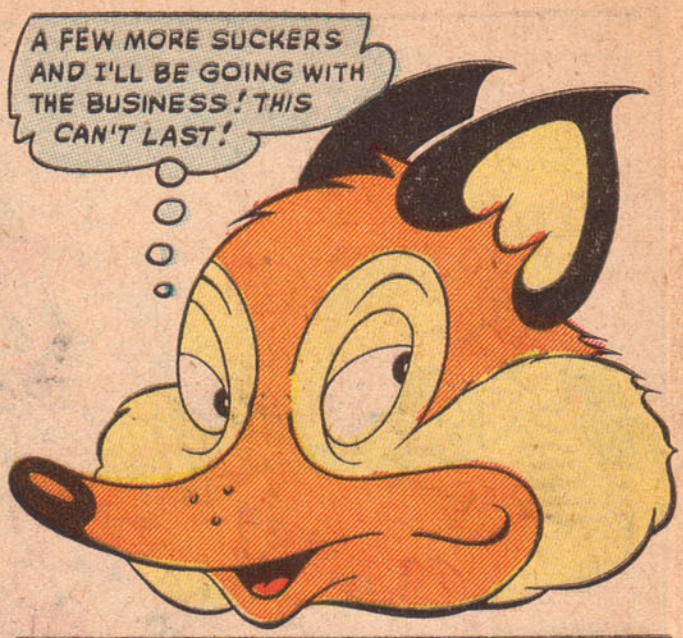

LISTEN, COUNT, IF YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER PHONY ANGLE... YEOW! WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THE MONEY?
HMM? OH, HELLO, EGBERT, CHUMP... ER.. CHUM!
BAM!

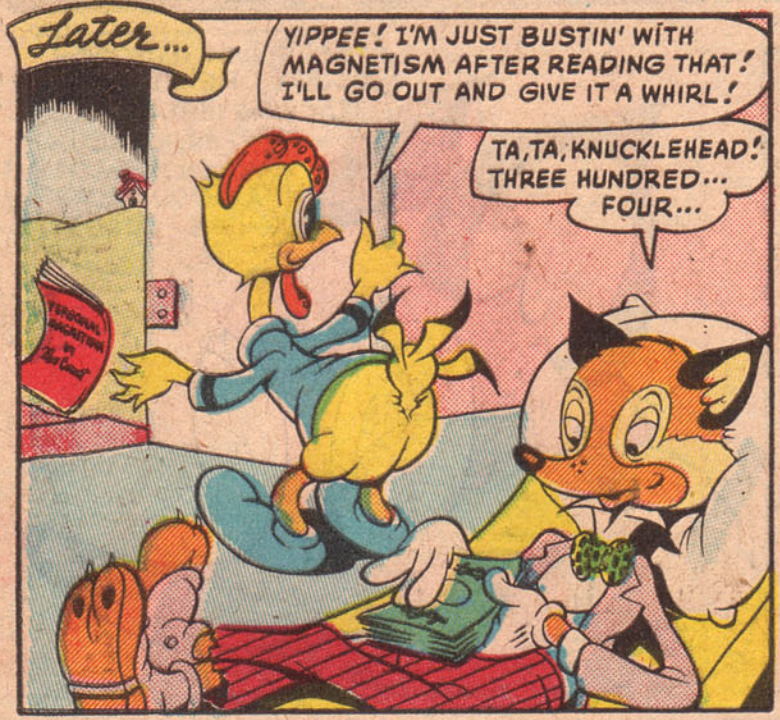

THIS IS JUST A BIT OF DOUGH I PICKED UP TEACHING INSTANT PERSONAL MAGNETISM! IT'S A GOOD RACKET... ER... DEAL!

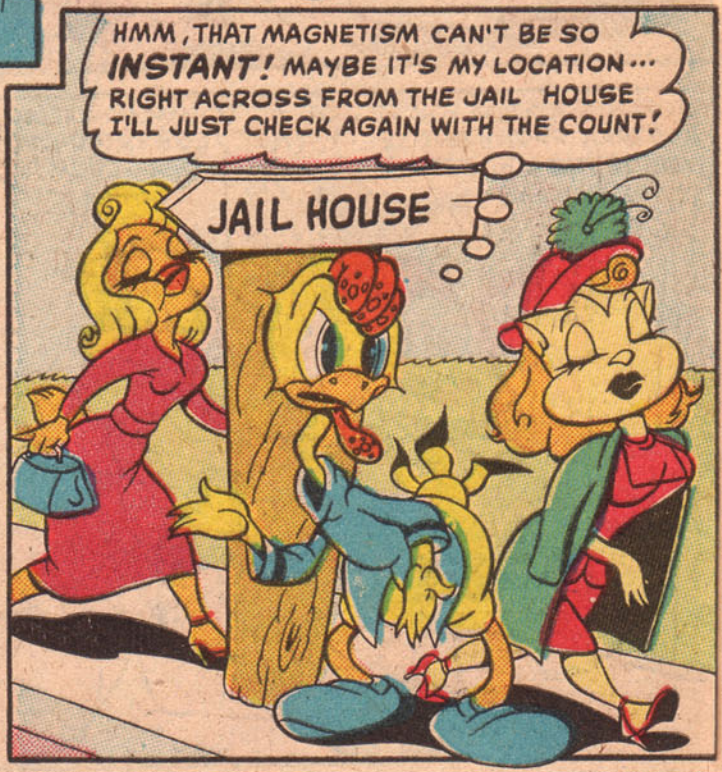

BOYOBOY! IF THE GAL THAT JUST LEFT WAS AN EXAMPLE, I COULD USE A FEW LESSONS MYSELF!
NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT, PALLY! BUT IT JUST SO HAPPENS THE COURSE COSTS DOUGH AND...

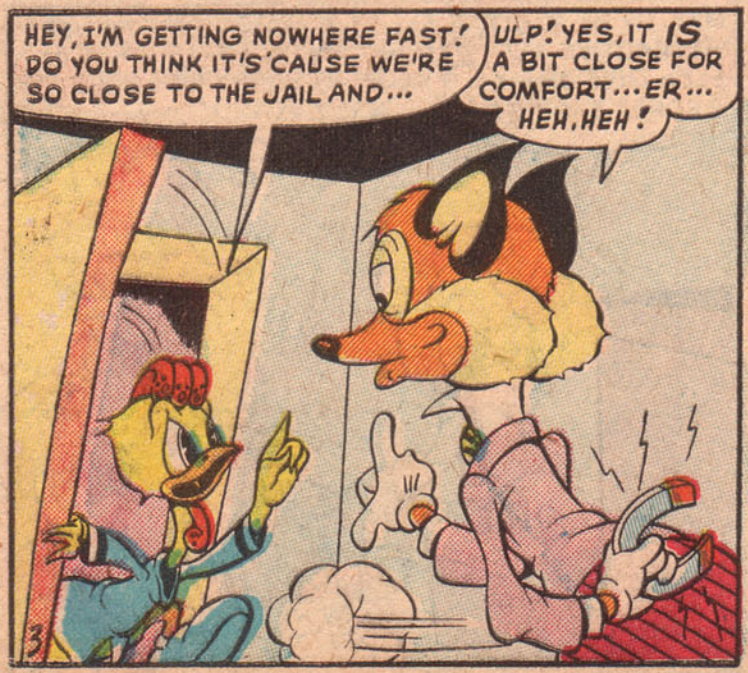

GEE, TO BE THAT ATTRACTIVE I'D EVEN GIVE UP MY SECRET SAVINGS!
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
AHA, SO THAT'S WHERE THE LITTLE CACKLE-BERRY HIDES HIS HOARD!

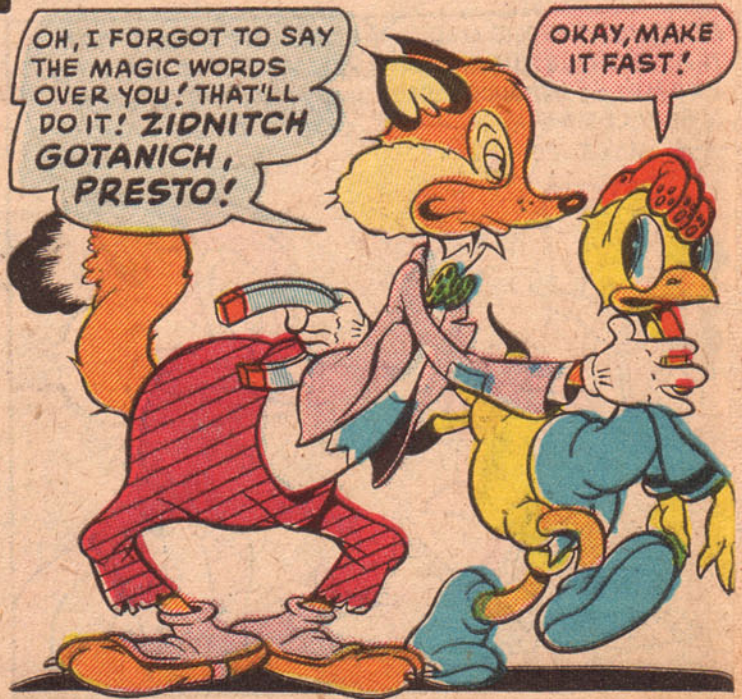

OKAY, SINCE YOU'RE A FRIEND... HERE, READ THIS!
BOY, THIS TIME YOU REALLY HAVE A GOING BUSINESS!
SWISH!
PERSONAL MAGNETISM by The Count

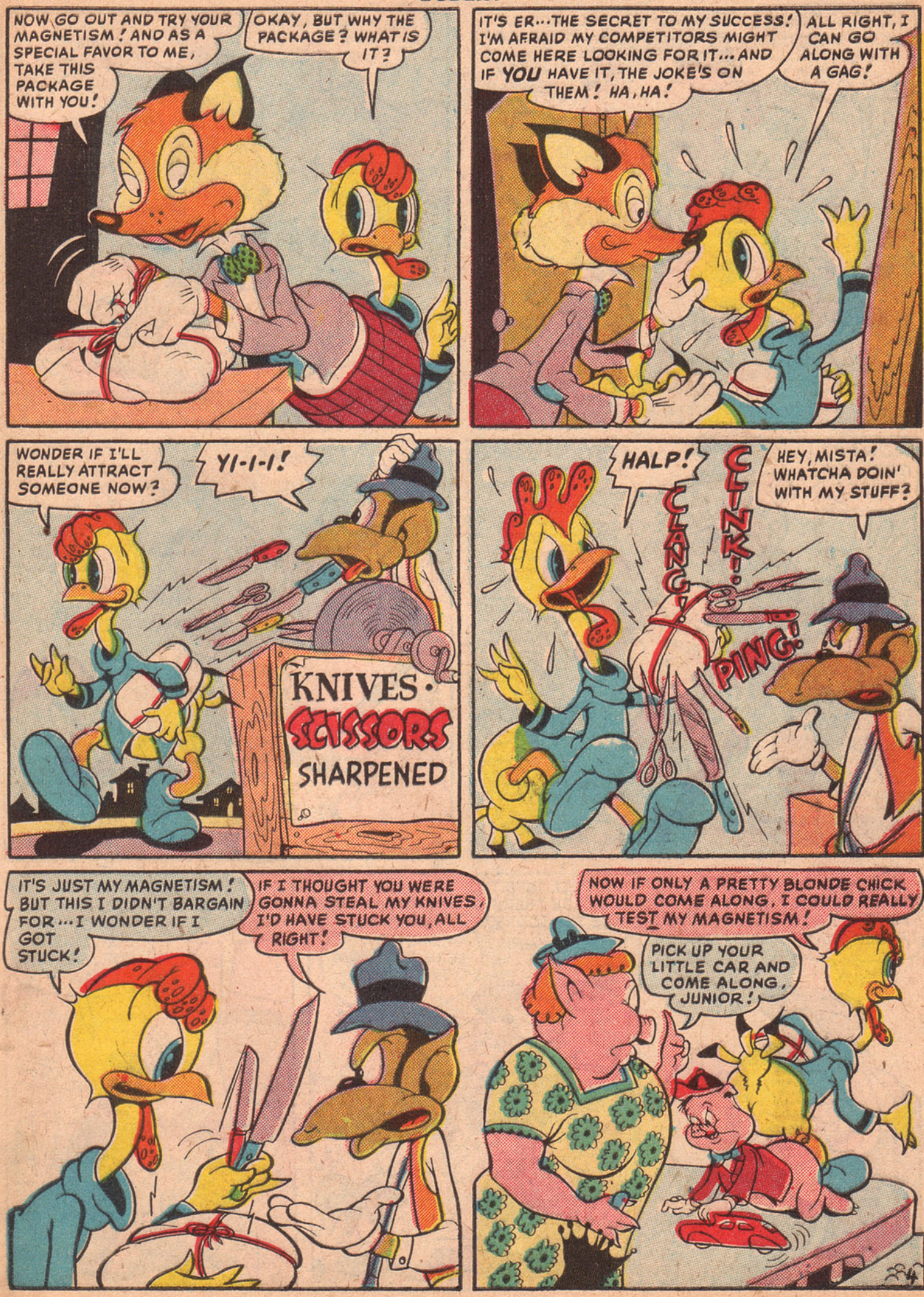

A FEW MORE SUCKERS AND I'LL BE GOING WITH THE BUSINESS! THIS CAN'T LAST!


Later...
YIPPEE! I'M JUST BUSTIN' WITH MAGNETISM AFTER READING THAT! I'LL GO OUT AND GIVE IT A WHIRL!
TA, TA, KNUCKLEHEAD! THREE HUNDRED... FOUR...
PERSONAL MAGNETISM by The Count

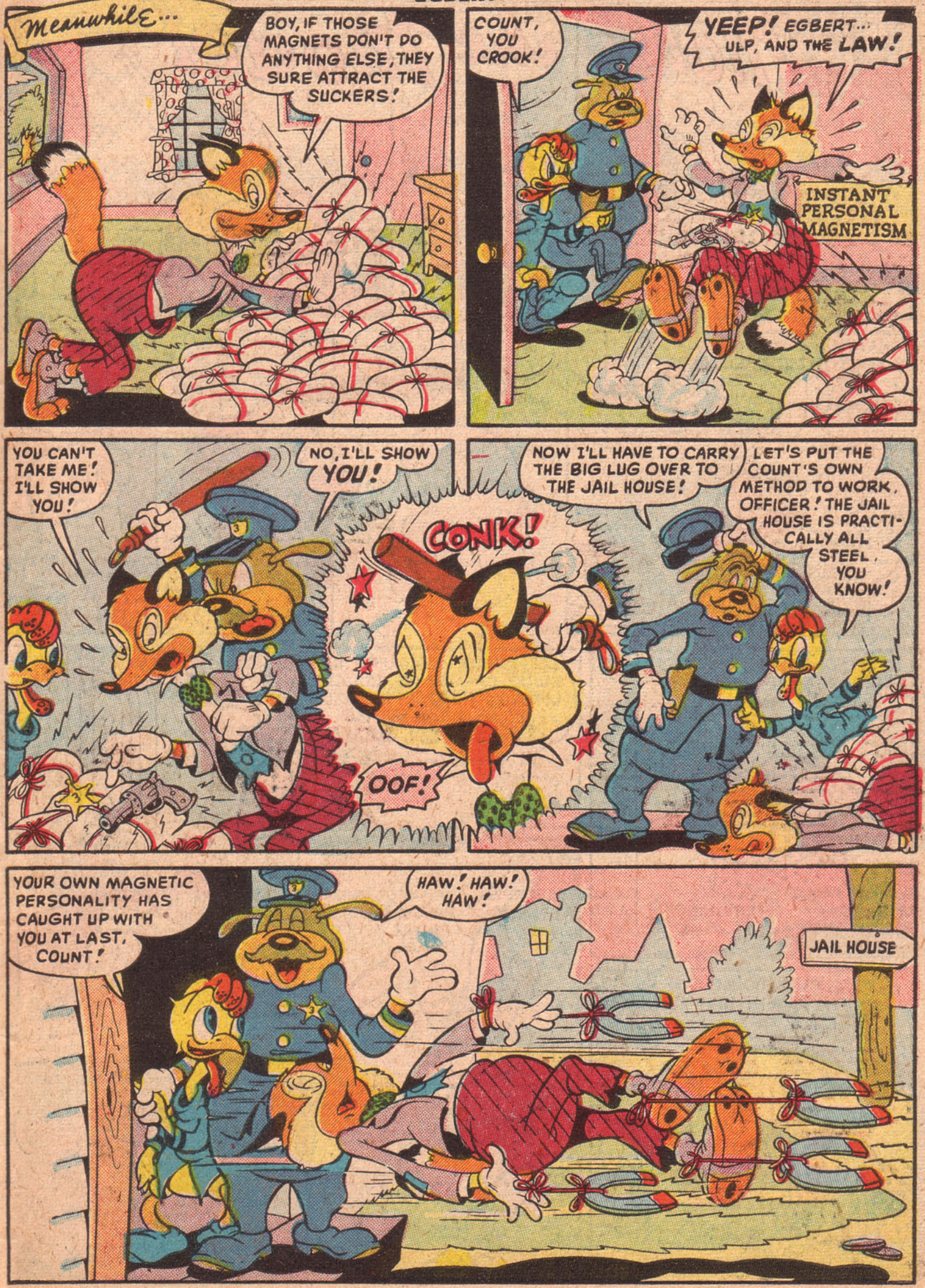

HMM, THAT MAGNETISM CAN'T BE SO INSTANT! MAYBE IT'S MY LOCATION... RIGHT ACROSS FROM THE JAIL HOUSE I'LL JUST CHECK AGAIN WITH THE COUNT!
JAIL HOUSE

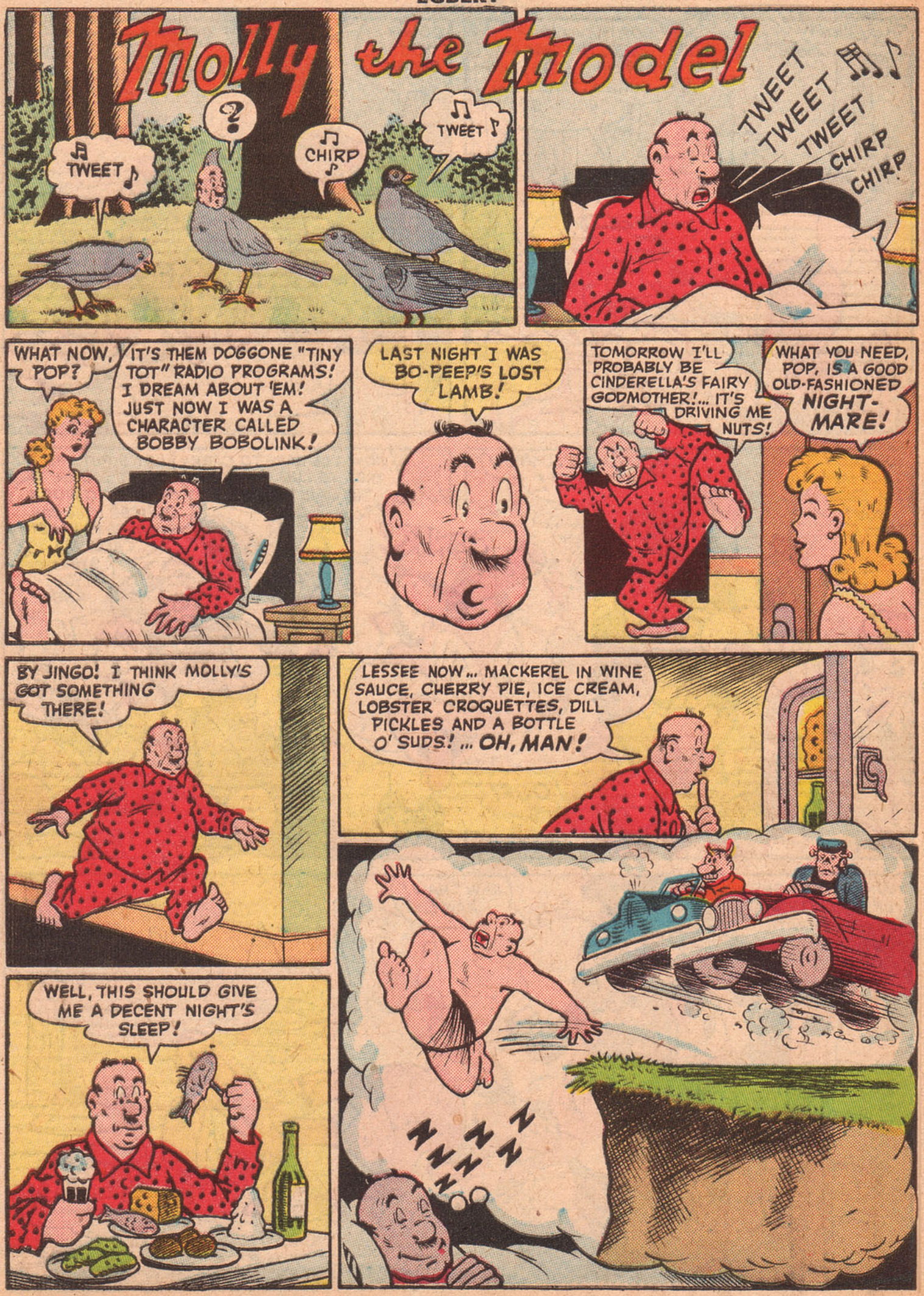

HEY, I'M GETTING NOWHERE FAST! DO YOU THINK IT'S 'CAUSE WE'RE SO CLOSE TO THE JAIL AND...
ULP! YES, IT IS A BIT CLOSE FOR COMFORT... ER... HEH, HEH!
3


OH, I FORGOT TO SAY THE MAGIC WORDS OVER YOU! THAT'LL DO IT! ZIDNITCH GOTANICH, PRESTO!
OKAY, MAKE IT FAST!


NOW GO OUT AND TRY YOUR MAGNETISM! AND AS A SPECIAL FAVOR TO ME, TAKE THIS PACKAGE WITH YOU!
OKAY, BUT WHY THE PACKAGE? WHAT IS IT?
IT'S ER··· THE SECRET TO MY SUCCESS! I'M AFRAID MY COMPETITORS MIGHT COME HERE LOOKING FOR IT··· AND IF YOU HAVE IT, THE JOKE'S ON THEM! HA, HA!
ALL RIGHT, I CAN GO ALONG WITH A GAG!
WONDER IF I'LL REALLY ATTRACT SOMEONE NOW?
YI-I-I!
KNIVES · SCISSORS SHARPENED
HALP!
CLANG!
CLINK!
PING!
HEY, MISTA! WHATCHA DOIN' WITH MY STUFF?
IT'S JUST MY MAGNETISM! BUT THIS I DIDN'T BARGAIN FOR··· I WONDER IF I GOT STUCK!
IF I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA STEAL MY KNIVES, I'D HAVE STUCK YOU, ALL RIGHT!
NOW IF ONLY A PRETTY BLONDE CHICK WOULD COME ALONG, I COULD REALLY TEST MY MAGNETISM!
PICK UP YOUR LITTLE CAR AND COME ALONG, JUNIOR!


YA-A-A! THAT MAN'S STEALING MY CAR! W-A-A-A!
YOU SCOUNDREL! HELP! POLICE!
GOOD HEAVENS!
CLANK!
STOP, THIEF!
:PUFF-PUFF: HI, CHIEF!
EH? WHAT GOES ON HERE?
YEOW! MY GUN ... MY BADGE!
HONEST, OFFICER! I CAN'T HELP IT!
PLINK!
CLANK!
WAAH!
HMPH!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T HELP IT?
IT'S JUST MY PERSONAL MAGNETISM! I ATTRACT THINGS!
WELL, YOU DON'T ATTRACT ME, BUB! HOW ABOUT THAT?
GULP! I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING! JUST COME WITH ME!
FIRST I'LL TAKE THIS PACKAGE! HERE'S YOUR TOY, SONNY!
YOU SEE, I STARTED TAKING PERSONAL MAGNETISM LESSONS FROM THE COUNT AND ...
SAY ... I WONDER IF THE COUNT IS HONEST!
IF HE AIN'T, IT'S GONNA BE MIGHTY CONVENIENT FOR ME! HAW, HAW!
JAIL HOUSE


Meanwhile...
BOY, IF THOSE MAGNETS DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE, THEY SURE ATTRACT THE SUCKERS!
COUNT, YOU CROOK!
YEEP! EGBERT... ULP, AND THE LAW!
INSTANT PERSONAL MAGNETISM
YOU CAN'T TAKE ME! I'LL SHOW YOU!
NO, I'LL SHOW YOU!
CONK!
OOF!
NOW I'LL HAVE TO CARRY THE BIG LUG OVER TO THE JAIL HOUSE!
LET'S PUT THE COUNT'S OWN METHOD TO WORK, OFFICER! THE JAIL HOUSE IS PRACTICALLY ALL STEEL, YOU KNOW!
YOUR OWN MAGNETIC PERSONALITY HAS CAUGHT UP WITH YOU AT LAST, COUNT!
HAW! HAW! HAW!
JAIL HOUSE


Molly the Model
TWEET
?
CHIRP
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
CHIRP
CHIRP
WHAT NOW, POP?
IT'S THEM DOGGONE "TINY TOT" RADIO PROGRAMS! I DREAM ABOUT 'EM! JUST NOW I WAS A CHARACTER CALLED BOBBY BOBOLINK!
LAST NIGHT I WAS BO-PEEP'S LOST LAMB!
TOMORROW I'LL PROBABLY BE CINDERELLA'S FAIRY GODMOTHER!... IT'S DRIVING ME NUTS!
WHAT YOU NEED, POP, IS A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED NIGHT-MARE!
BY JINGO! I THINK MOLLY'S GOT SOMETHING THERE!
LESSEE NOW... MACKEREL IN WINE SAUCE, CHERRY PIE, ICE CREAM, LOBSTER CROQUETTES, DILL PICKLES AND A BOTTLE O' SUDS! ... OH, MAN!
WELL, THIS SHOULD GIVE ME A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP!
ZZZZZZ

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LOOK! FIRE IN THE WAREHOUSE! AND THAT MAN...

...MUST BE THE *MYSTERY FIREBUG* THE POLICE ARE AFTER!

...MAYBE THE PICTURE I TOOK WILL *CLEAR UP* SOME OF THE MYSTERY! GET THIS FILM DEVELOPED, FELLAS, WHILE I JET OVER TO THE FIRE-STATION FOR HELP!

WITH ALL-OUT JET SPEED, U.S. ROYAL--LEADING THE FIRE-TRUCK--IS SOON ON HIS WAY BACK TO THE BURNING WAREHOUSE...

...WHERE THE FIREMEN FIGHT THE BIG BLAZE WITH ALL THEY'VE GOT!

GOOD! HERE COME THE BOYS WITH THE DEVELOPED INFRA-RED FILM I TOOK!

WELL, THE FIRE'S OUT... THE WAREHOUSE IS SAVED... BUT WE *STILL* DON'T KNOW *WHO* THE FIREBUG *IS*...

NO, BUT THIS WILL SHOW US WHAT HE *LOOKS* LIKE... THE REST OUGHT TO BE EASY!

THE NEXT DAY, THE FIREBUG IS BROUGHT IN, MAKES A FULL CONFESSION WHEN HE SEES THE PICTURE OF HIMSELF IN ACTION!

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